Monday, November 21, 2011 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 346 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON (BREAKING) to 4467
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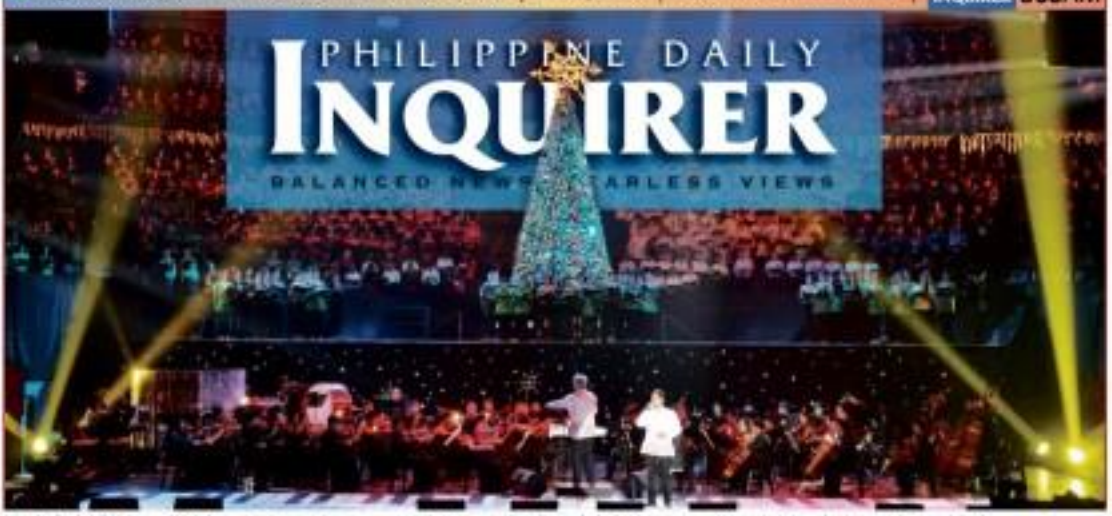

HEAVEN ON EARTH Some 1,000 choir members from top choral groups conducted by maestro Ryan Cayabyab give Filipinos a glimpse of heaven in their weekend concert. (See story below.) ARNOLD ALMOSO

SC may undo GMA arrest

Memorial rises on Maguindanao massacre site

By Rosa May de Guzman-Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

AMPATUAN, Maguindanao—On grassy slopes, concrete structures tower over the site of the massacre of 58 people here two years ago.

Spending nearly P15 million for the memorial, considered a permanent backdrop to the grisly carnage, Maguindanao designers say its massive roots are honoring the dead.

"This is a sacred place, a place for history to honor the dead," said Jaggoo Wang, chief of design, planning and programming division of Maguindanao's provincial engineers office.

Graders are flattening the 3.2-kilometer rugged road leading to the site, while laborers are putting final touches to the structures in a race against time for the observance of the second anniversary of the massacre.

On Nov. 23, 2009, armed men gunned down and hacked to death 58 people in a convoy of supporters of gubernatorial aspirant Esmael Mangudadatu on their way to file his certificate of candidacy. The dead included 32 journalists covering the event.

More than 100 people led by former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. are on trial for the massacre.

The Maguindanao provincial board under Mangudadatu, who won as governor in last year's balloting, has appropriated P10 million for the construction of a 1-km road; P2 million

MEMORIAL A-13

MEMORIES THAT WILL NOT DIE Workers put finishing touches to a shrine where 58 Filipinos, most of them journalists, died in the infamous Maguindanao massacre. EDWIN BACASMAS

Ruling on joint panel to determine her fate

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Marlon Ramos

FORMER President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may still get a reprieve if the Supreme Court declares as unconstitutional the joint Commission on Elections and the Department of Justice (Comelec-DOJ) panel that recommended her prosecution for alleged electoral fraud, officials said.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento expressed fears that the high tribunal might short-circuit the Aquino administration's move, regarded as unprecedented in the annals of Philippine jurisprudence, to arrest Arroyo for allegedly sabotaging the 2007 balloting and

CPNOY, A-20

Police prepare room for GMA's detention

By Miko Morales and Jocelyn R. Uy

IT'S NOT first class but it will do.

The Southern Police District (SPD) has begun sprucing up a room in its camp in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City should the Pasay City Regional Trial Court (RTC) order that former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo be held there.

Arroyo is currently under hospital arrest at St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City in Taguig on charges of electoral sabotage.

The SPD's public information office was rearranged to accommodate a cot on which Arroyo,

SOUTHERN, A-20

P-Noy's double kill of GMA sends chills down public's spine

By Amando Doronila

IMMEDIATELY after setting foot on Philippine soil on Saturday from the Asean summit forum in Indonesia, President Aquino plunged into a blistering action to deliver the coup de grace on his arrested adversary, former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

ANALYSIS

On his arrival statement at Villamor Air Base, the imperious President didn't allow the grass to grow under the feet.

Immediately following the filing of criminal charges against Arroyo for alleged electoral sabotage, Mr. Aquino said the arrest "is just the start of the process" of prosecuting the former President.

Arroyo became the second Philippine leader to be jailed after Joseph Estrada who was arrested on charges of plunder in April 2001. This warning to ousted

In an effort to rally public support for the swift incarceration of Arroyo—after a day in which the process of filing

P-NOY'S, A-20

1,000 angelic voices drown political noise

By Pachalo Concepcion

IN A WEEK of high political drama generated by the arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a welcome respite came on Saturday night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum—a thousand voices singing like angels to usher in the Christmas season.

And what better way to mark the night than for the thousand choir members to sing Filipino

1,000 ANGELIC, A-19

Gadhafi son falls; Libya rejoices

ZINTAN, Libya—Libyan militia fighters on Saturday captured Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, the last fugitive son and one-time heir apparent of Moammar Gadhafi, setting off nationwide celebrations but also exposing a potential power struggle between former rebel factions over his handling.

Al-Islam's arrest closed the door on the possibility that he could stoke further insurrection.

Al-Islam—who has undergone a transformation from a voice of reform in an eccentric and reviled regime to one of Interpol's most-wanted—now faces the prospect of trial before an international or Libyan court

GADHAFI, A-12

20 advertisements win Araw Awards

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—From funny to dramatic to hip, advertisements in the past two years that endorsed products and advocated social causes were awarded gold trophies in the Araw Awards, touted as the "Oscars" of Philippine advertising productions, on Saturday night.

The 20 winning works from 17 advertising groups were chosen from a field of 1,748 produced from 2009 to 2011 and cited in a ceremony that capped the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress (AdCongress22) held at the Camiguin Waterports

20 ADVERTISEMENTS, A-11

NEWS
South Korea leader here on state visit / A2

LEARNING
Students' antisuicide notes / I1

WORLD
Egypt protesters challenge generals / A29

SPORTS
3 golds fail to boost PH campaign in SEA Games / A31

Second FRONTPAGE

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3 3 9

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Korea leader arrives to boost ties

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SOUTH Korean President Lee Myung-bak is in Manila for a three-day state visit.

Lee, here upon the invitation of President Aquino, arrived at around 1:20 p.m. yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International airport aboard a South Korean government Boeing 737 jet from Seoul.

The South Korean leader was welcomed by Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Oscar Roderoz, State Governor Manager Jose Angel Honrado, and Philippine Ambassador to Seoul Luis Cruz, among others.

Before boarding a black Audi service car (with plate No. 1 S. ocean plate), Lee waved at newsmen covering his arrival.

This morning, Mr. Aquino will formally welcome Lee at ceremonies at the Malacañang grounds.

An "expanded bilateral meeting" headed by the two leaders will take place shortly, followed by the signing of bilateral agreements between Manila and Seoul.

Later, the two leaders are scheduled to attend a Korea-Philippines business forum at the Manila Hotel organized by the Philippine and Korean chambers of commerce and industry.

At 7 p.m., the President will host a state dinner at the Palace in honor of his South Korean counterpart.

Earlier, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Lee would "meet with President Aquino to discuss ways to further enhance the rapidly growing relations between the two countries."

Welfare of OFWs

"Recent developments and the future direction of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Republic of Korea (who-knows-what) also be discussed," the DFA said in a statement.

The two heads of state will also talk about the "welfare of (over 80,000) overseas Filipino workers" based in South Korea, according to DFA leaders.

There are also an increasing number of Korean migrants in the Philippines.

Lee is also scheduled to take part in a one-hall meeting at Ateneo de Manila University where he will hold a dialogue with students and faculty of the Quezon City-based tertiary institution.

Lee will also visit a war memorial.

The DFA noted that the Republic of Korea has consistently been the top source of foreign tourists to the Philippines.

"Last year, the figure reached 740,000, accounting for 21 percent of all foreign tourists that visited the country," said the foreign office.

According to the DFA, Lee's visit "comes at an important point in the 62-year history of Philippine-South Korean bilateral relations," which were formally established on March 2, 1949.

Manila's and Seoul's friendship was reinforced by the deployment during the Korean War in the early 1950s of the Philippine Expeditionary forces to Korea, which joined the United States, the UN-nation coalition in defending the Republic of Korea against the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea, it added.

Aid commitment

In July, South Korea increased its official development aid commitment to the Philippines from $100 million to $500 million under its Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) framework arrangement.

Priority areas for EDCF funding include water, agriculture and government projects supporting "green growth," said the National Economic and Development Authority.

Under the EDCF, Seoul will provide Manila with concessional loans for public-private partnership projects aimed at increasing business growth and attracting foreign investors.

"The development will serve as a springboard for higher investments in the country, as the government strives to achieve growth that is inclusive and sustained," Neda Director General Cayetano Paderanga Jr. earlier said in a statement.

EDCF funding "will also address the short supply of government resources, particularly its investment capacity and technological know-how," Paderanga added.

Solon won't cut GMA slack in NBN-ZTE case

By Gil Cabacungan

A MILITANT lawmaker said he will block any attempt by Justice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to dodge the plunder case filed against her in connection with the scrapped $329 million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal.

"The Filipino people have waited long enough. In fact, the Ombudsman ... already allowed GMA an extension to file her counter-affidavit due to her illness and (has) should be sufficient time already," said Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño, adding that the case should be resolved "at the soonest time possible."

The NBN-ZTE case, the sixth plunder charge dogging against Arroyo, was filed by Casiño, along with Bayan Coalition chairperson Renato Reyes Jr., Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Liza Maza, and Akbayan partylist Rep. Walden Bello.

30-day extension

Arroyo has until today to submit her counter-affidavit but Casiño requests Arroyo's lawyers in Baguio's detention center to file for another extension after being granted a 30-day extension last month.

Arroyo is accused of favoring the Chinese telecom company ZTE allegedly because over P1 billion in bribes and kickbacks from the deal were earmarked for her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, who is included along with Arroyo in a travel ban over charges of election sabotage.

Arroyo denied the charges, stressing that she cancelled the NBN-ZTE contract when she was told broke evil.

The antiplunder law defines plunder as the direct or indirect amassing by a public official of at least P50 million in ill-gotten wealth through a combination or a series of acts like misappropriating public funds and illegal disposition of government assets. It is a nonbailable offense.

Urgent motion

Casiño said they would file an urgent motion calling the Ombudsman to resolve the plunder case and to file immediately in the Sandiganbayan.

"The subjects of justice must be in its fastest during these times considering that we are dealing with someone who ruled with running dogs and militarism for almost a decade, who used anything and everything to remain in power and to plunder the people's coffers," said Casiño.

He also urged the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to expedite another plunder charge involving the reported diversion of PCSO funds to filmmaking.

The Senate blue ribbon committee heard testimony earlier this year that in 2009 approved the diversion of lotto

projects and medical assistance from 2006 to 2010.

'OUT OF THIS GALAXY'

Consumers swarm to the Samsung pre-selling display at the Podium in Mandaluyong City to get acquainted with the new Samsung Galaxy Note tablet and smartphone. The Galaxy Note features a 5.3" Super Amoled display to complement its most unique element, the S Pen. The Galaxy Note runs on a 1.4GHz dual-core processor. Coupled with an expandable memory that goes up to 32GB, it boasts of seamless operation for any standard mobile phone user. Samsung has partnered with the Philippine Daily Inquirer to provide the Galaxy Note's first users with the PDI Digital Edition free for 45 days.

Ally files stem cell center bill to help GMA

By Gil Cabacungan

A PROVINCE mate and colleague of ailing former President Joseph Estrada in Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has filed a bill to put up a stem cell center in the country.

Pampanga Rep. Carmelo F. Lazatin, a member of the minority bloc in Congress, has filed House Bill No. 5287 mandating the establishment of a research facility to explore the benefits of stem cell technology as a potential cure for incurable diseases.

Lazatin's bill comes in the wake of Arroyo's supposed plan to fly the ailed leader—days at stem cell center in Shanghai over what doctors here describe as an bone disease.

Arroyo's lawyers said her illness needs specialized treatment abroad which could not be provided by local specialists. Government and localization, however, have disputed the claim.

"Many countries have started tapping stem cell's potential to cure diseases like cancer, brain strokes and other confounding ailments. Parkinson's and birth defects," Lazatin said in a statement.

Lazatin described stem cell treatment as a type of regenerative medicine that introduces new cells into damaged tissues to treat a disease or injury.

Under his bill, the proposed Stem Cell Center of the Philippines would be headed by a "medical doctor" to be supervised by the health secretary.

The center aims to engage in research for the development of techniques to isolate, produce, derive, test and store stem cells.

Lazatin's bill stresses that the research would comply with the law, apparently in reference to the controversy over the use of human embryos in stem cell research.

Pimentel backs De Lima, justices

SEN. NOLI ME "Koko" Pimentel III yesterday threw his support behind Justice Secretary Leila de Lima in the government's effort to prosecute former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for plunder and electoral sabotage.

"I unequivocally support Secretary De Lima, for she prevented lawyers from leaving the airport and escaping prosecution. She should be commended instead of reprimanded for upholding justice and the rule of law," Pimentel said.

If only Pimentel who actually instigated the electoral sabotage supposedly perpetrated by Arroyo during the presidential election in 2007. Witnesses came forward to accuse the former president and others of allegedly ordering the cheating.

Pimentel also cited Associate Justice Martin Lucido Serrano for her dissenting opinion on the temporary restraining order (TRO) the Supreme Court issued to the watch list order against Arroyo.

Serrano argued that the Nov. 16 TRO issuance is ineffective because the Arroyo couple had failed to comply with Condition No. 2—"petitioners shall appoint a legal representative common to both of them who will receive subpoena, orders and other legal processes on their behalf during their absence."

Pimentel said, "With all due respect to the Supreme Court, I believe it should insist from ruling Secretary De Lima for contempt for allegedly ignoring the TRO that initially ignored the enforcement of the watch list order on Arroyo."

The senator said that "to have allowed Arroyo to leave the abroad would have been tantamount to abolishing Secretary De Lima's duty to uphold the rule of law."

Pimentel also praised Associate Justice Antonio Carpio for his lone opposed to the ruling opinion. Carpio emphasized that "while the right to travel is a constitutional right that may be impaired only as may be provided by law, there are recognized exceptions. Romero is the restriction on the right to travel of persons charged with crimes before the courts."

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Lack of flights for OFWs seen

A SURFEIT of flights may ensue during the holiday season if departing newly hired overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) would have to contend for airplane seats with returning old hires amid massive delays in government agencies' processing work permits, warned a recruitment consultant.

Emmanuel Geslani, a recruitment expert, said the backlog at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) processing and accreditation department was delaying the trips of newly hired OFWs.

If these workers would not be able to leave the country soon, they would find themselves competing for airline seats with more than 50,000 OFWs returning to their host countries from holiday breaks and renewing their contracts and work clearances, said Geslani in a statement yesterday.

Some 2,000 Filipinos working on US bases in Iraq and Afghanistan alone are expected to return to the country to obtain new travel documents from the POEA, he said.

Geslani said that from November to January the POEA's "holiday stampede" season was swamped daily by at least 1,000 people applying for overseas employment certificates (OECs) and paying their fees.

He called on the POEA to pick up the pace to avoid a backlog in OEC and BCIC (Balikbayan) applications.

"There is a recurring shortage of passenger seats for the return of some 50,000 Balik Manggagawa (OFWs returning to the newly hired ones also find themselves competing for flights from Manila to various job sites like the Middle East and the United States," said Geslani. Jocelyn D. Uy

Ateneo de Zamboanga recalls alumni, Nieva

ATENEO de Zamboanga University will honor this year's Golden Jubilee class as the grand alumni homecoming on Dec. 2-4 in Zamboanga City. This year's golden jubilarian are the high school class of 1961 who graduated 50 years ago.

Among them was the late Antonio "Tony" Ma. Nieva who rose to become a topnotch journalist and editor at the Philippines Herald, Manila Bulletin and Philippine Daily Inquirer. He was two-term president of the National Press Club and founded the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

Nieva was the first Filipino secretary general of the International Union of Journalists based in Prague, Czech Republic, where he died of an illness in October 1987.

Ateneo de Zamboanga president, Rev. Fr. Antonio F. Moreno S.J., said "the legacy Nieva left for his class, the alumni and the nation will be cherished and remembered always."

Moreno called on alumni here and abroad in search in the Ateneo de Zamboanga for the homecoming. For details, call Primrose "Bit" Lorenzo at (0917-7401186, Christine Cabrevil (0920997-0857) or Rolando Bagtasos (0917-7103337.

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PASIG RIVER RUN
The humongous globe outside the Mall of Asia in Pasay City dwarfs the thousands who participated in yesterday's Run for Pasig River, an extravaganza of ABS-CBN Foundation's Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig for the rehabilitation of the iconic 27-km river. Runners swarmed Roxas Boulevard in Manila up to the mall complex in order to outdo last year's event which bagged the Guinness World Record for the most participants in a run with some 114,000 people.

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CA freezes assets of suspect in abduction of Pilar Pilapil

By Marlon Ramos

PILAPIL. Mystery still shrouds her abduction. (INQUIRER.net photo)

THE COURT of Appeals has frozen for 20 days the bank accounts and other assets of the primary suspect in the April 24 abduction and the attempt on beauty queen and actress Pilar Pilapil.

In an 11-page resolution, the appellate court directed the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Land Transportation Office to put on hold any transaction on the accounts and vehicles of Raul Jacinto Pelino, who is facing kidnapping and frustrated murder charges allegedly masterminding the abduction of Pilapil.

Also covered by the freeze order were the assets and bank accounts of Pelino' sister, Rodjie Jacinto-Jose, and the latter's mother-in-law, Luzviminda Ignacio.

Pelino, who is married to Helen Pelino, the younger brother of Pilapil's husband, Ramon Pelino. He has since disappeared along with the vehicle she was driving on the night of the attack on April 24.

In granting the petition of the solicitor general — Lumenda v. Council (AMLC), the appeals court said there was "probable cause to freeze the bank accounts" of Pelino, Jacinto and Ignacio which were "reasonable suspected or involved in the unlawful activity of swindling or offenses of money laundering" as defined in Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

"In order to avoid the possibility of the Bank deposit(s), its related such accounts and the motor vehicle being withdrawn, removed, transferred, concealed and placed beyond the reach of law enforcement, this court finds it appropriate and judicious to issue a freeze order," said the resolution issued by Associate Justice Potenciano Diamante.

"Wherefore, the petition for the issuance of a freeze order is hereby granted, a freeze order is issued effective for a period of 20 days from receipt," it added.

Police records showed that Pelino abducted Pilapil from a shopping mall in Ortigas, Pasig City, supposedly to meet with the former's boss from Unilever Philippines.

While they were in the parking lot of the Robinsons mall in Mandaluyong City, two unidentified men reportedly joined the vehicle being driven by Pelino. The attackers reportedly stabbed Pilapil, commandeered the vehicle and left her for dead in a grassy lot in Antipolo City.

Pilapil survived the attack.

A week after the attack, the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed a case of kidnapping and frustrated murder against Pelino and ordered her to the hands of the court.

Director Samuel Pagdilao, CIDG chief, said Pelino engaged her son allegedly to kill Pilapil for P10 million from Pilapil's in-laws.

Pelino had reportedly borrowed money from Pilapil for the former's supposed plan to work with Unilever in Australia. She also allegedly enticed Pilapil to invest in Pelino's supposed businesses amounting to over P1 million.

Pagdilao said records from the Bureau of Immigration showed that Pelino never left the country for Australia and that most of the money she told Pilapil about her supposed job were not true.

DA, WB attack climate change

By Kristine L. Alave

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) and the World Bank (WB) will be opening a loan facility to fund projects that would help food-producing regions adapt to extreme climate change.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said the DA and the World Bank are working on a credit facility called the Central Philippines Rural Development Program (CPRDP) which would support investments and infrastructure development in regions spanning the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), which are vulnerable to strong sea levels and stronger storms.

The program is similar to the WB's Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP), which focuses on P3 (public-private partnership) and infrastructure projects in the region.

The key difference, however, between the two projects is the focus on climate change resistance a WB official said in a briefing recently.

The vulnerability of the Central Philippines projects to climate change adaptation," Yelena de Ximenes Jr., task leader of MRDP said.

Alcala said he wants to open the program in 2013, noting that it is imperative to strengthen the Central Philippines against extreme weather threats as it remains the country's food bowl.

He noted that the priority regions of CPRDP are Regions IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII and VIII.

These provinces, which have considerable livestock and poultry industries, are usually in the path of the typhoons that hit the country every year.

Those in Central Luzon produce the bulk of the country's corn and vegetables.

Alcala said the swine flu pandemic that these regions recently had devastated the country's farm output for the fourth quarter. At the start of the year, the DA said it expected agricultural growth to hit around 4.8 percent in 2013. Last week, Alcala disclosed that the sector's growth could be between 3.3 and 3.8 percent. He blamed the typhoons for the decrease, pointing that about a million hectares of farmland were destroyed.

Officials said the CPRDP will be similar to MRDP which made more than 500 projects until it ended in the last part of the project. According to the WB, the LGU must provide 50 percent of capital to be able to get assistance.

Gov't bucks dismissal of raps vs Erap aide

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE FLIMSY charge against Yolanda Ricaforte and the supposed reward for her arrest should not be set aside, government prosecutors told the Sandiganbayan Special Division last Friday in their opposed the plea of the accused for a preliminary investigation of the case and the quashing of the warrant.

Ricaforte is a co-accused in the plunder case of former President Joseph Estrada and is alleged to have acted as the cashier of the illegal gambling payoffs to Estrada. She left the country at the height of the people's uprising that ended with Estrada's ouster from office in 2001.

Last summer, Ricaforte asked the Sandiganbayan Special Division to order the Office of the Ombudsman to conduct a preliminary investigation into her case and to withdraw her arrest warrant, arguing that she had been denied due process and the charge sheet against her was defective.

But in his opposition to Ricaforte's motion, the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) said a valid preliminary investigation was conducted on the complaint against her before the plunder case was filed in court.

It disputed her contention that she had left the country by the time the Office of the Ombudsman had begun hearings on the supplemental complaint in which she was named a respondent.

Counteraffidavit not responsive

Ricaforte had said the counteraffidavit she submitted on Jan. 21, 2004 was not responsive to the charges since the order to respond to the supplemental complaint was dated July 2, 2004.

But according to the OSP, Ricaforte herself admitted in a motion filed in another criminal case that she had been served a copy of the supplemental complaint, as the one attached to the July 2 order.

"With this admission, the claim of accused Ricaforte that her counteraffidavit contains only a general denial and is not responsive to the supplemental complaint, apparently dwindles into nonexistence," it said.

The OSP added that Ricaforte should have complied with the Feb. 2 order unless she considered her counteraffidavit as sufficient to deny the allegations in the supplemental complaint.

It also said that in determining whether there was a preliminary investigation held, it was immaterial whether Ricaforte left the country before the hearings on the complaint had ended.

It said she was duly notified and given copies of the complaints against her, and was given a chance to contest them.

As for Ricaforte's argument that she was not given a copy of the April 6, 2001, resolution of the Office of the Ombudsman directing the filing of charges against her, the OSP said the copy was sent to her last known address in Quezon City.

Arrest warrant valid

It further said that the warrant for her arrest was valid, and that she must had found probable cause to issue it.

The OSP countered as well Ricaforte's argument that the charge sheet against her had no allegation of criminal context.

It said the same issue had been addressed in the Supreme Court ruling upholding the plunder case against Jaggy Estrada, another co-accused.

The high court had noted, among other things, that the gravamen (material part) of the conspiracy charge was that each of the accused had agreed to participate directly or indirectly in the amassing and acquisition of ill gotten wealth by former President Estrada.

But in her reply to the OSP, Ricaforte insisted that she was denied such due process because the amended charge sheet against her was void for being vague and failing to inform her of the charges against her.

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US, Asian leaders gang up on China's Premier Wen

HONOLULU Air Force One—US President Barack Obama and nearly all the Asian leaders directly confronted China at the 6th summit on Saturday for its expansive claims to the resource-rich West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), putting the Chinese premier on the defensive in the long-festering dispute, according to Obama administration officials.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao was by turns "grouchy" and confrontational as he responded to the concerns aired by almost all of the leaders attending the East Asia Summit, said one of the administration officials, who spoke to reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama returned from an eight-day diplomatic outing around the Pacific Rim.

The meeting, at the end of the summit, capped a week during which Obama moved quickly to bind on several fronts, to restore the influence of the United States to the Asia-Pacific region after years of preoccupation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He announced that 2,500 Marines would be stationed in Australia; opened the door to restored ties with Burma (Myanmar); a Chinese ally; and gained support for a regional free-trade bloc that excludes Beijing.

The announcements appeared to startle Chinese leaders, who issued a series of warnings that claimed the United States was seeking to destabilize the region.

CHINESE Premier Wen Jiabao (left) seeks a meeting on Saturday with US President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia. AFP

'Good engagement'

Despite the rapid-fire diplomatic challenges, Obama did make time to speak with Wen on Saturday morning after the Chinese leader asked if they could meet, Thomas E. Donilon, the national security adviser, described the meeting as "a good engagement."

A report in Xinhua, the official Chinese government news service, hailed up the Obama administration's suggestion that Wen had been put in an uncomfortable position by the focus on the West Philippine Sea, especially because the country has long insisted that the issue should not be discussed in multinational forums.

At a similar regional meeting last year in Hanoi, in which US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton bluntly warned China to curb its aggressiveness in its territorial claims, the Chinese foreign minister walked out enraged, according to officials who were there.

On Saturday, however, Wen acknowledged that he did not want to discuss the issue at the summit, but added that it would be "unjustice" not to express the concerns of his country's neighbors, according to Xinhua.

He then defended China's stance on the sea, according to the news service and an Obama administration official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity.

The fact that Wen spoke at all, however, represented a tactical defeat in a struggle that has become a head point in the larger tug-of-war with the United States over influence in the region.

Dramatic exchange

The United States, with an ironic if strengthening ties with China's smaller neighbors, has backed their preference for multinational talks, rather than one-on-one negotiations in which China would have the advantage.

The administration officials's account of the heavily two-hour session suggested a more dramatic exchange than a typical set-piece gatherings.

Of the 18 nations represented at the East Asia Summit, only the leaders of Cambodia and Laos have backed away the issue of maritime security as the president and prime ministers each voted, speaking, the administration official said.

Unlike an initial source of the summit, where the leaders met in a large ballroom with rotunda of ashes in honor of Asia, who cations and multilateral responses to natural disasters, the issue on Saturday included only the 18 leaders and one advisor each in a smaller room—suggesting a relative intimacy that likely facilitated more candor.

The official said that Obama, who was the first American president to attend the East Asia Summit, "did not lobby" the other leaders to speak up.

The first to speak, the official said, was the leaders of Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei—among whose tensions with China are highest—followed by representatives of Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, India, Japan and Indonesia, the summit host.

The leaders reiterated their testimony on a "multilateral resolution of the conflicting territorial claims," the official said.

Obama, Wen speak

Only after other leaders had spoken did Obama express his agreement with them, the official said.

Obama argued that, "while we are not a claimant in the South China Sea dispute, and while we do not take sides, we have a powerful stake in maritime security in general, and in the resolution of the South China Sea issue specifically... as a resident Pacific power, as a maritime nation, as a trading nation, we have a deep stake and security in the Asia-Pacific region."

Then Wen replied.

The administration official described his response as "passive

Massacre still haunts Mindanao media

By Emmanuel Lasaeta
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—The massacre that caught the world's attention and gave the country the reputation as the world's most dangerous place for journalists, Maguindanao journalists say, is not over.

Asked to take pictures of the bruised memories of the tragedy on date, a photojournalist who normally covers stories in conflict areas promptly asked, "how about its impact today?"

A TV3 cameraman soon suburb had taken shots of the memories during the day refused to film sightseeing scenes in the area because of the repeated gunmen of armed men in the buildings. "That is impunity," said Jeffrey Tupas, TV3 Davao desk.

"It was an eye-opener," said Ali Bonjoc Jr., the area news manager of ABS-CBN news and current affairs in Northern Mindanao, when he talked about the massacre that killed 58 people, 33 of them journalists, in Ampatuan town in Maguindanao two years ago on Nov. 23.

"It made me realize the Philippine press is not free at all, and if journalists are killed here, then, Filipinos, in general, are not free. The main reason for media to be vigilant," said Bonjoc, also chair of Gagadan de Oro chapter of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

"If there was one glaring lesson journalists should learn from the massacre, it was that it wouldn't have happened if an, as journalists, had only faithfully done our job of exposing the truth," said Dodong Sola, former station manager of the DMN radio network, now head of the Internet-based One Radio.

Lessons learned

"We are used to covering powerful politicians with rehab battalion of bodyguards in full battle gear tagging behind them and yet we have a blind eye," said Sola, a member of NUJP-Davao chapter.

"When we see their luxury cars and expensive lifestyle, we turn the other way as if these things are normal," Sola said. "Later, we realized this don't respect human dignity, that was how we were inducted to impunity."

A survey in October showed that Filipino journalists never already self-censoring themselves for fear that what happened in Maguindanao would also happen to them.

The "culture of impunity" wherein media practitioners can anytime be harassed or killed while performing their duties, has still restricted journalists, said the survey.

Memorial rises on Maguindanao massacre site

Pretungan A-1

be a bare concrete and steel multipurpose hall, and two guesthouses. P350,000 for the concrete memorial marker; P980,000 for three solar-powered lamp posts, and P950,000 for the fence.

"The idea of building this kind of shrine is to inspire people to visit this place, that it's safe to come here anytime, that there is nothing to fear about," Pinag said.

Several designs

Pinag said several designs were drawn up for the memorial by Maguindanao to approve. One design was an assembled cage steel but the said condition would not permit its construction.

"It can be assembled in this site but the absence of elevator, it would hamper its making. He would have to do welding works," said the 24-year-old designer.

Maguindanao had approved the design and ordered construction to begin in October for completion before Nov. 23.

But the design has not gained wide approval.

Journalists who visited the site last October were displeased by the manner to which the grave sites were fenced.

"The place should not have been marked," said Rowena Paraan, secretary-general of National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, citing a number of pieces of evidence found in the site as the fence was being built.

About a meter-high fence with two grills topped the grave sites in an effort to preserve and protect the area. In one grave, soldiers grew tarpods and tallay trees.

"They should not have touched the place. There were many pieces of evidence that can be found there," she added.

Slith victim

Bonley Ingadol, one of the guards at the site, said they found empty shells, slippers and a press card in the area.

The remains of 57 people were recovered immediately after the killings.

But the body of the 58th victim, Reynaldo "Bebot" Momay, photographer of Midland Review in Tacurong City, has not been recovered.

"Only if they drag deeper, they could have found my father," said Reynaldo Momay-Castillo, daughter of Reynaldo.

"The intention was to fence off the graves and leave them as it to preserve it and maintain its sanctity," Pinag said.

The memorial marker, which earlier bore erroneous spelling of names of victims and added ornament omitted from Notre Dame University has finally been etched out with the exact figure and spelling of victims' names.

Gadhafi son falls

Front page A1

FOLLOWING his capture in Libya's rugged desert, Saif al-Islam Gadhafi sits in custody bound for the city of Zintan in the western mountains. AFP

...to answer for the alleged crimes of his late father's four-decade rule over the oil-rich North African nation.

Theodorian arbitrary gunfire shook the Libyan capital of Tripoli and other cities after Libyan officials said Al-Islam, who has been charged by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity, had been detained 53 kilometers west of the town of Obari in a town that borders Niger, Mali and Algeria.

A photograph was widely circulated showing Gadhafi's 39-year-old son in custody, seated by a bed and holding up three bandaged fingers as a guard looks on. He was subsequently in good health.

The photograph was circulated by several Misrata militia commanders who said they had captured Al-Islam in the southwestern desert, along with a small entourage.

Leaders in Zintan insisted they would not hand him over until a formal national government was formed—a process that is at least a day or two away.

Such insistence on technical power is at the heart of international concerns about Libya's future. After Gadhafi's killing at the hands of militiamen, his son's rise will be an important test of Libya's commitment to the rule of law.

Scenes of revelry

The capture eliminates perhaps the last hope that loyalists backed rallying a new resistance around the remnants of the Gadhafi family. It also represents a personal transformation that turned Al-Islam from the most prominent advocate of changing his father's ideas into one of the chief architects of the regime's deadly crackdown on dissent in the final days.

Mustafa Gerfa, a member of Zintan's revolutionary movement, said fighters had been following Al-Islam through the desert using local sources for intelligence in the scene that he was not on a locals, and he did not see many of the more assertive formulas that we frequently hear from the Chinese, particularly in public."

Instead, the official said, Wen simply countered that the East Asia Summit was not the place to discuss the issue, and asserted "that China goes to great pains to ensure that the shipping lanes are safe and free."

"I would describe the overall discussion as constructive," said not a set-piece one, the official added. "The leaders were not equivocating; they were not speaking ambiguously."

What was interesting, the official said, was not what Wen said, but what he did not. For instance, he did not repeat the assertion that the disputes should be resolved bilaterally.

But a report in Xinhua and the prime minister "reaffirmed" Obama's position, perhaps indicating that his omission did not mean any real change in thinking.

Muted backlash

Despite the prickly response by Chinese leaders throughout the week, the backlash has been relatively muted, at least compared to the past when such moves have generated more critical statements and sometimes blustering comments, native to the state-run media.

New York Times News Service

THE DAILY GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 21 (Monday)
Psalter: Week 2
34th Week in Ordinary Time or Dn Rv
Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Glory and praise for ever!

1st Reading: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5

An Daniel was marked out to make him sell succinct with the king's food or wine, he hoped the chief eunuch to quiet him did do likewise. By the grace of God, the chief eunuch had been sympathetic to Daniel, but he was afraid of the king, and so he said, "If the king, who has allotted your food and drink, sees that you look more exercised than the other young men of your age, he might think ill of me. It will put my life in danger to give in to your wish."

Daniel then turned to the steward whom the chief eunuch had put in charge of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: "Please test your servants for 10 days. Give us only vegetables to eat and water to drink, and see how we look in comparison with the young men who eat food from the king's table. Then treat us in accordance with what you see."

The steward agreed and tested them for 10 days, at the end of which they looked healthier and better fed than any of the young men who ate the king's food. So the steward continued to give them vegetables instead of the choicest food and wine.

In these four years God gave wisdom and proficiency in literature, and to Daniel the gift of interpreting visions and dreams.

At the end of the period set by the king for the youths' training, the chief eunuch presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them and found none to equal Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Thus the latter were members of the king's court. In any matter of wisdom and discernment about which the king questioned, he found them 10 times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Gospel: Lk 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury of the Temple. He saw too a poor widow, who dropped in two small coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow put in more than all of them. For all of them gave as offering from their plenty; but she, out of her poverty, gave all she had to live on."

Reflection:

In a society where the person's worth and standing is measured by his economic power, those who have none are always on the mercy of those who have. In this case, a widow is considered to be powerless not only because she is a woman but because she has a president in her husband. And now that she drops her object of wealth, the only one she had was taken away from her. Out of her nothingness, she gave all she had to live on. That was real generosity. We are nothing yet in our nothingness and totally dependent on God, we learn to give, we learn to share.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Checkmate

EDITORIAL

THE COMMISSION on Elections has come to the rescue of the Arroyo administration in stopping former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from leaving the country. By filing election charges against Arroyo in connection with the alleged rigging of the 2004 elections, the Comelec has provided the Executive Branch the excuse to finally serve Arroyo a watchlist of arrest and effectively stop her from going out of the country, ostensibly to seek medical treatment for her bone and thyroid disorders.

The arrest capped a dramatic week of legal and even physical tug-of-war between the Arroyo administration and Arroyo. The Supreme Court had lifted the travel ban on her, but the failure to leave the country Tuesday when the Department of Justice defied the Court and physically prevented her from boarding a plane for Singapore. The administration brought time by filing a motion for reconsideration with the tribunal, but it was the en banc decision last Friday of the Comelec, a constitutional body, to file charges and have her arrested that effectively stopped Arroyo from leaving. Since many suspect that she's just making her medical conditions an excuse to flee the country, she has been served a legal checkmate that her fancy lawyers may find hard to overturn. Now she is under "hospital arrest" at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig, and she could become the second former president to stand trial, after her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, was sentenced to life imprisonment on corruption charges before being pardoned by her.

"We promised the Filipino people her day in court, and now she is getting it," said presidential spokesman Ramon Carandang from Bali, like while the Comelec move added fuel to an anti-corruption drive engineered by President Aquino, the fact that the Comelec has to come to the help of the administration in providing a legal and constitutional underpinning to keep Arroyo from leaving may indicate it's not up to the task it has assigned for itself. Until the Comelec moved in, putting Arroyo on trial and re-energizing his anti-graft drive had appeared out of Aquino's reach. The Comelec has done the administration a favor.

But it's a favor whose wages the Comelec may find too steep and even risky to pay. To be sure, the Comelec and the administration now have to make the charges against Arroyo stick. In a way, the Comelec's action has created its own set of problems for itself and the administration. While it is true that the Supreme Court, reopened legacy of Arroyo appointees, has persistently blocked Aquino's efforts to set up a truth commission to investigate allegations of corruption against the Arroyo administration, raising questions about the politicization of the judiciary, it is also true that the Comelec, an independent body stacked with Aquino appointees, has left itself open to charges of itself being politicized when it joined the DOJ in the task force to investigate alleged electoral rigging by the previous administration. In fact, Arroyo has formally questioned the legality and constitutionality of the task force before the high court. By filing electoral charges against her and having her arrested, the Comelec may have buttressed Arroyo's arguments.

What all of this means is that the war has just begun and the public should prepare not only for a classic give and take of legal and constitutional parables, but also for the agony of witnessing its democratic institutions in a mall, and behind them may not the limits of Philippine democracy. It is easy to say that justice has been served and Arroyo, considering the prostitution to which she subjected the institutions during her regime, is getting a dose of her own medicine. But the more worrisome prospect really is Philippine democracy not surviving the weight and brutes of its institutions colliding with one another and going beyond the arena of legal niceties of checks and balances and into the uncharted territory of a take-no-prisoners war and the total annihilation of each other. We are seeing a growing polarization of our institutions and to some extent everybody should share the blame for our democracy having become such a very spectacle. But then again, the agony and the war have just begun.

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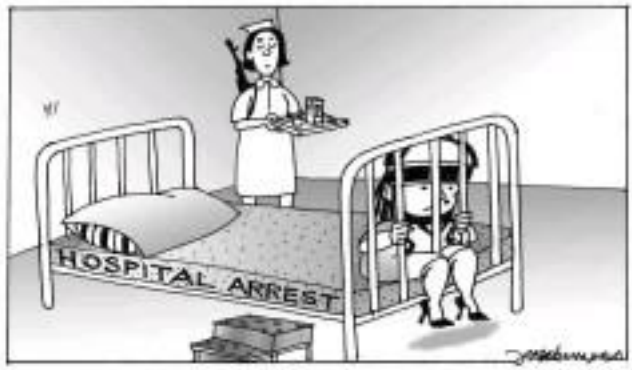

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THE MOST common complaint against our social system is that it is too slow. But when the wheels of justice rolled faster in the case against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, they are still complaining. They say it was too fast, that the case was "railroaded." A slew of damned if you do, damned if you don't.

Even granting that the filing of the case and the issuance of the warrant of arrest were "too fast," the old accusatory declaration—too exciting for any congressional committee—is obsolete.

The Arroyo couple was on the verge of leaving the country. In fact, they had already booked flights on several airlines, and the couple, together with aides, had already gone to the airport to board their planes. It was evident that they wanted to skip the court to shelve it's warrant of arrest.

Once they are out of the country, they elect on beyond the pale of Philippine laws and authority. They can seek political asylum somewhere, claiming they are being persecuted in the Philippines. They can stay away from the Philippines indefinitely, and return, if they want to, when a friendly administration takes over. The Filipinos are a forgiving people with short memories who forget if pressure dies after only a short time. Look at the Marcoses. The administration of President Aquino would be left holding an empty bag, and the world would be laughing at us. "Amateurs" would be the common Filipino epithet hurled at us, becoming their voices able to "put one over on."

What will that do to Ellen's promise to hold the public accountable for the "Hello, Garci" issue. Bad corruption is spreading in the Philippines is that the average joe sees only their loss and are not punished.

Yes, the Commission on Elections was called in a meeting en banc to hear and decide on the recommendations of the Joint Committee Department of Justice committee which investigated the electoral offenses committed SMA and declared Mapalacsiao Gov. Abdul Ampatuan Jr. and detained Comelec official Lintang Bedol, both of whom said they were instructed by GMA to cheat in the 2007 polls so that there would be a 12-0 vote in favor of administration candidates in the presidential elections. (By the way, who was Garci not included in any electoral sabotage case?)

But, the filing of the cases was ordered by the Pasay Regional Trial Court and not, the judge included this inductor of a usual set of arrest, that if you were in the place of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, what would you have done? The suspects are about to escape, she has been ordered by the President "to do everything" to prevent their escape. Would you have sat back and allowed them to escape?

Lawyers of all stripes, always obsessed with the letter of the law say that she should have obeyed the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court against the search-bar order (SLO) of the DOJ. They said refusing to obey it was a "deficiency" of the high tribunal which is punishable by imprisonment and/or fine for contempt of court.

But it is a cardinal principle in law that the substance of the law always takes precedence over the letter of the law. Which means that in cases of conflict between the law, the intent of Congress that created the law (or the Supreme Court which promulgated the rules) should be taken into consideration.

For example, say, it the intent of the framers of the Constitution, in writing the guarantee on an individual's right to travel, to allow suspects to escape prosecution by traveling out of the country?

All the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights are not absolute. They have limits, such as when they encroach on the rights of others. Freedom of the press is limited by the libelous; the right to freedom of expression is limited by the law against slander; the right of workers to strike is limited by other laws; the right of people to gather and seek redress for grievances is limited by other laws on peace and public order.

By the same token, the right to travel is not absolute. It is limited by this country's own right to impose justice and hold accountable those who have committed wrongs. Should a suspect in a criminal case be allowed to escape simply by invoking his right to travel? As I see it, the state's right to hold accountable those who are guilty should take precedence over the individual's right. The right to freedom is the most basic right in this Constitution, but the state can still detain you if you are accused of a criminal act.

The administration may be "hated" in the case of GMA, but the Supreme Court nulled the Arroyo Court) is also guilty of the same sin. All the eight justices who voted for the issuance of the TRO as well as the denial of the DOJ's motion for reconsideration, were appointed by GMA. The tribunal scheduled oral arguments on the case for days before the scheduled hearing, it suddenly issued a TRO, effective immediately, setting the DOJ to expire.

Not only that, the Arroyo camp seemed to have an inside track on what the Supreme Court would do. Even before the TRO was issued, they were all packed up and ready to go, the P2 million cash fund required by the Supreme Court was already in a duffel bag ready to be taken to the Supreme Court, and they had already booked flights (which were subsequently cancelled) out of the country. It was only the DOJ's fast action in the absence of immigration and to the Manila International Airport Authority not to let them leave that prevented them from escaping and making the Philippines the "laughingstock of the world."

GMA should remember one thing. She did the same thing to former President Joseph Estrada who she not convicted of any corruption charge but was convicted on plunder, imprisoned for more than six years. How the shoe is on the other foot.

AS I SEE IT

Amad H. Cruz

TKO

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHAT A difference a decade presidential makes.

When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had Joseph Estrada arrested shortly after she came to power, she might have known lawful president, a century of Edsa 2, but not a usufructuary. The public had no problem with applying punishment, but they had every problem with Arroyo doing the punishing. The sight of Estrada being frogmarched like a common criminal in a police station did not give the unadulterated feeling of justice being done, it gave the uncanny feeling of an upstart person consolidating her foothold on power.

The result was "Edsa 3," spun-off of the first two Edsas but one that showed a lack of moral sturdiness in Arroyo's cause. The accused stood literally in some court; it was even bigger at its world class than of the other two Edsas. It lost steam on its own, but Arroyo never got any traction from it.

After Erap entered Arroyo entered into wrestling with the issue and would mention new catchwords, if not patriotism. The right of Arroyo being served the warrant to St. Luke's did not spark a march of cries, it sparked a series of cute jokes. Only in the Philippines, when you have to contend on the fingers of one hand, the lack of passion, everybody else loaded it as justice.

The right of Gloria being disproportioned to a police solution—if that were happen—will not make fans out of it will spark signs of relief. Her subjection to a common criminal charge being on an omnibus one like Movers will not induce cries of anger, it will unleash explosions of merriment. I don't know that her cause can raise more than a dozen people to protest it. If its justice it will not include Mikey Arroyo who has done a fiasco. And I do know it will not include some relatives, including a sister, who will be running out the best of the country.

I die worry live in a while that the Arroyo camp might be able to milk her medical woes, but they've applied the public's capacity for compassion. Those days might go for the emotional pitch, which has a way of getting places in this country. The public might never forget its detestation of her, but it could allow sympathy for her. But this camp did not, which only shows how little they sense the public mood. Mikey whined instead to fight back the tough law and lawmen.

Maybe if it was become losing an object of pity now akin to Arroyo, in the notion of trying to become on new conditions to her. She had other all lessons in one of the most powerful presences in the world, in person, presiding in Davos as we seem informed to. Or maybe they figured that with Senate Cosmo as chief justice, less sure their comfort zone, they were subjected to public will it. Whatever the reason, and it is enough we believe in Providence, she has missed the only opening available to her.

In fact, the line is not Arroyo's ally. The specter of her lawyers trotting in the streets, even threatening Ellen will impeachment if he does not bow to Cosmo, does not fill us with awe, it fills us with revulsion. It reminds us of the hate when the Ellen Tordesillas filed her against the law, or wielded the law to threat justice. It reminds us of the law that jailed Sen. Gen. Francisco Gudmar and Col. Alexander Balutan who testified against her, the law that put the country under emergency rule, practically privilege. The most than on law, the more the public sees Herd. Or the more it wants to put the thieves behind bars.

Maybe it is because Arroyo's ally. There is a difference between being lived and being overbearing, between being someone and being someone. The difference is not lost on the public, particularly when given simple reminders of it. Arroyo's decision to get it out at the airport so much as of the time she chose to get it out of: "Hello, Garci" rattled out and the country was into, demanding she step down. She did not. She suspected the hassles in order to proclaim her innocence. That is not humongous, that is humongous up syrup. Not only proving the new did not cause public sympathy, it activated public hostility.

Finally, government might have spared itself all its troubles if it had treated against Arroyo here-like-this. Had it filed a case against Arroyo long ago, it would have avoided the kind of legal complications that came with the Supreme Court's TRO. But better late than never. The arrest warrant against Arroyo has, as court spokesman Jose Midas Marquez acknowledges, trumped the TRO, making it moot and academic.

If they himself has proven he is far from the unyielding incorruptible hero tried to make him out to be. What it comes to matters of fundamental national interest, he is unyielding, he is uncompromising, he is modest. More than anything he has done, this is the one thing that shows he is perfectly serious in carrying out his campaign against corruption. This is his defining moment. He has been judged, and found full.

Set as the Supreme Court, which has proven yet again it has no right to exist. About all it has proven is that the appointments of Arroyo who Arroyo appointed hide beyond the bounds of duly and who allege to the problem beyond the bounds of decency. The point is not that the Supreme Court has blocked us in confrontation with government, it is that it has put us there to be in the path once more on to handle against a malice in structural justice. The courts are there to practice law in the grand manner, they are not there to advance technicalities. The Supreme Court more of all. The Arroyos nominated by rulers, they must be punished. The Supreme Court is wrong, it must be righted. The Arroyos are wrong to dodge the law, they must be stopped.

If they is making sure they are in the hour of a TKO, he has just delivered a TKO.

Unfinished legal business

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

(c) Of the ruling Court President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is under police guard at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City. The obvious effect of such situation is that her movements are limited. She will not be able to board a plane to Hongkong, but it is assumed that everything the president does is done to relief. Clearly, under our legal system, the personal liberty of the accused can be restricted only to the extent necessary to secure his custody in court.

But that does not settle everything. There are questions whose answers transcend the individual welfare of former President Arroyo.

The first glaring question is whether an executive officer, no matter how highly placed, can decide the clear order of no less than the Supreme Court. This is now scheduled for deliberation by the Court. It will have to decide whether indeed there was defiance by the junior secretary and refer to do with the defiant. In the past those perceived to have defied the order of a court, even of a lower court, have been penalized for contempt. Will this happen here?

In the order of things, this principle is clear enough. In our respective orbits the functions are distributed. The legislature enacts the law, the executive implements it, the judiciary passes judgment on the validity of the law and acts of the executive.

The judiciary, of course, is not perfect or omniscient. It can make, and it has made, mistakes. But mistakes or not, the court must be obeyed. But the judiciary has no army to enforce its orders. Thus, if every person is free to obey only what he or she considers a correct decision or order of the court, we can have chaos. We had this beginning of that in the airport last Tuesday.

The validity of the position taken by the executive officer depends both on the facts relevant to that and on whether the executive has the power to do what he or she is doing. A public officer has only as much power as is given to him or her explicitly or implicitly by the Constitution.

In the present controversy, what is involved is a person's right to travel within or without the country. The right, of course, is not absolute. It can be limited. The Constitution says that the right to travel may not be impaired "except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law."

It is noteworthy that the phrase "as may be provided by law" was not in the law libertarian 1972 Constitution. The first was inserted during the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission. The phrase was added as a limitation on the discretion of executive officers.

In the current controversy, the validity of DOJ Circular 41, on the basis of which the DOJ has acted, is in issue. The DOJ circular recognizes that earlier circulars of the Supreme Court did not stop against the power of the executive officers conferring immigration to limit the movement of people. Because of this, DOJ Circular 41 decided to empower the DOJ.

But this is an act of self-empowerment? Did this act of the DOJ satisfy the requirements of the phrase "as may be provided by law"? This is an important question which needs to be decided by the Supreme Court.

I agree but argued that this question is no longer ripe for decision because the DOJ action on the basis of Circular 41 has been mooted by the summon of arrest issued by a Pasay court. They, reasonably most questions are not taken up by the Court. Besides, it seems there can no longer that the Court has decided to take up a query, now that he has since acted on the occasion that the question dealt with a very important issue capable of repetition.

Definitely this is a very important issue. In justice but until the Supreme Court has decided it, it is of course in dangerous to a failed as free expression of abuse of the right of assembly. And the issue is likely to come up again and again. As discussing opinion in the GMA TRO case already noted, there are most contentious which are imposed even in the absence of a law. There is need for a basic statute on travel.

Finally, now that a warrant of arrest against GMA has been issued, is the possibility for her to travel definitively closed? I shall not enter into the issue of whether the Pasay Regional Trial Court has jurisdiction over the case. I have heard it argued that, since GMA is a public officer (I don't forget that she is a member of Congress) and the offenses for which she is accused were allegedly committed while she was president, the case should go to the Sandiganbayan. As I said, I am not prepared to complete in that matter because this matter does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan. It is perhaps the most frequently amended law.

But assume that the warrant of arrest is valid. Assume further that she is charged with a non-bailable offense. Then, that close all possibility of "escape"? Not necessarily. She should still be able to ask for bail. The prosecution still has to prove it a proper hearing that the evidence of guilt is strong. That has not yet been done.

Assume next that the evidence of guilt is shown to be strong and that therefore bail is not available to her. Assume next that the rule of sound ing like the Old Testament patriarch bargaining with God about sparing the city of Sodom. With her and hypothetical, may a judge still grant bail and even give to an accused permission to travel? On the basis of recent Supreme Court decisions as late as 2007, that is not outside the realm of possibility. But considering the temper of the times, that may be unlikely. But rules of fortune-bargaining predictable?

Somebody once said we had a passion for a president. Our members of the Presidential Security Group emphasized why the President was late for an official function. "He was still playing video games with Josh when we left." That has already been denied by the President. But in the midst of a nation reeling seriously to know how an unprecedented action of the war being performed—putting accountable our former president—was "just presidential playing games." Where Leonardo's golden public fights with the Supreme Court administrations. That is truly juvenile.

Should anyone wonder why we are still, and will be, under a regime of a culture of impunity? The government is not doing things right, according to the rule of law. Most of the people are turned on them. Because they will try God.

That is how the game works in this country. That is why elections are nothing but an opportunity to exact vendetta on political enemies. That is why we have impunities who are mostly treated as heroes. That is why the person is now being perpetrated by Hosni Mubarak.

A few days from now is the second anniversary of the Maguindanao Massacre. Let us rather forget what happened. Let a thousand Ampatuan butchers flourish in this land. Let a thousand Ampatuans be born. Let us close our eyes to carnages. There is no doing natural. It is simply a basic rule that "one needs to be a good sound line from Quirino Grandstand.

The culture of impunity starts precisely because of national leaders who break the laws according to their political agenda.

Shame on you, Mayor Aquino, for betraying our hopes for an end to the culture of impunity. You have no claim for science in 2013.

Comments to joaquinbernas@gmail.com

Goodbye, 'daang matuwid'

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Dr. Antonio J. Montalvan II

THERE WAS a moment of unrest and a bold desperate order to his person. For, he was able to leave and had eventually evaded the most rigorous international police dragnets abroad. When he returned, but for that stop was Manila rising. For like Lazarus, rotten of the republic came to leave his cozy luxury suites cast for him by disarming the lives of the land. Similar to Senator Ignatius who has now secured his full benefits. Unseen a palm-valley with the present powers. But he. That is how governance works in the land.

I was never a fan of the late general Antonio. I never voted for him. But inasmuch as I made my own choices according to the democratic principles that this nation has taught me and my brothers, I also believe that one does not forsake the basis of the basic principles of the land when others do. All past presidents had stood with our laws, all past presidents gave their own versions of daang matuwid as they saw it. And all of them broke their sword.

I thought Noynoy was different. The past few months left me with doubts.

For a while, Noynoy made us forget that breaking the laws of the land was the problem with this country. We had naively thought he did not have the glib tongue of his predecessors. We had thought for a while that here was a person who rules would actually observe the separation of politics of his predecessors. We were even willing to play coy and dread our memories from to handed, as may background and his self-invented role in silencing the Hacienda Luisita opposition whose blood was spilled more than once.

Right then, found volumes of the guilty Comelec findings, such as that in a Metro Manila telephone directory, could not have been read thoroughly by Davao City Regional Trial Court Judge Jesus Mupas, all in the space of less than a day. But that is the Guinness Book of World Records as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Maybe, in some more days, we will find that we must now celebrate as a hero. At least two Comelec commissioners voted so, pending that they have not read the entire report.

"Go where the play takes you," Leila de Lima once said in a television interview when does one ask the question of whether the Aquino clan was corrupted in their selfless part that a Mupas and another was holding, which the person one? What instructions did Mupas receive from Malacañang? What does the "Wilks, Judge" have, if any (and I am sure there are), reveal?

This is all that we are reading now for just generosity that it is perfectly okay not to follow the Supreme Court, that civil liberties are not sacred, that the judiciary can be derailed upon even when millions of Juan dela Cruzes wait for years for their court day in court.

Meanwhile, while we were not looking, a Standing Committee today has been appointed to the United Coconut Planters Bank. Expect one of the greatest injustices of the Marcos dictatorship to be consigned to oblivion. We had previously seen shocking buddies of Noynoy attend their public office. Have they been pardoned?

The whole point is that we cannot dignify public office with the same reason with which actress was acted accused of. That's certainly a right way. This way is not.

Why Spanish?

DIPLOMATIC POUCH

Jorge Toribio

Ambassador Philippine head foreign mission

ON WEDNESDAY, Nov. 23, language leaders and experts from all over the region will assemble in the Instituto Cervantes de Manila for the Second Conference of Spanish as a Foreign Language in Asia and the Pacific which will be inaugurated by Spanish Ambassador Rafael Mateu de Ros. Many will remember that the Instituto Cervantes had the traditional hands between our two countries but wonder why reviving the Spanish language is an issue of interest in the Philippines to an entire the second decade of the 21st century.

Step back to 1937. President Manuel L. Quezon, referring to Spanish, said that "the Latin-American people feel manifested that our Filipino blood is part of that vast family, the children of Spain. Thus, although Spain seized to govern these countries many years ago and although another nation is sovereign in the Philippines, those Latin-American peoples feel themselves as brothers to the people of the Philippines. It is the duty of the Philippines and Filipinos to those peoples mutually if we love the wisdom and protection of preservation."

However, the 1987 Philippine Constitution abolished Spanish as an official language of the Philippines. Although Filipinos still have historical ties, the fact is that the majority of Filipinos there no longer used Spanish in their daily lives and therefore the constitutional role is only experienced a statement of fact.

It makes no sense to look back on the Spanish language just as its interest of our common past, which is of course, but also as a tool for strengthening our bilateral relations, to get to know each other better and to better understand our history and culture. We must admit, and we would be foolish not to do so, that there is so much about the Philippine culture that can only be understood fully if we know Spanish, and vice versa.

Without forgetting Brizal, we are aware that the "Golden Age" of Philippine literature (which paradoxically coincided with the American period in the Philippines) and in Spanish began to decline from all official communications provided first class carriers like Pedro Paterno. Instead, to do his Bravo Apellanes Medina, José Rizal and to translate Mr. Francisco, who wrote all their works in Spanish. Of course, none of these men are 20 percent of Tagalog words are of Spanish origin, although many of the popular expressions have a slightly different meaning. The oldest and some of the most important documents found in the National Archives of the Philippines are in the archives of the University of Santo Tomas are still to be best understood and interpreted if one is fluent in Spanish. I am happy to say that we are working closely with Filipino authorities and some private institutions in the country to restore this priceless treasure, among other things, by encouraging its study. In the archives we will focus to ensure that the history that is there will continue to benefit future generations. All these efforts are commendable and need to be continued.

However, that is not the end reason why we are obliged to promote and promote Spanish among the Filipinos and the people of Asia and the Pacific.

Spanish must not be viewed as some archaic and dead language like Latin. But most Filipinos about the age of 50 remember as a compulsory subject in school, which they did not like and which for those now just a source of time. Spanish should not be regarded today as a language of the elite spoken among Spanish mestizo families or as a legacy of a past that no longer exists. Spanish, along with the English language, is one of the only two global means that exist for communication between different cultures. The movement for the revival of Chinese as the largest spoken language in the world. Today more than 500 million people speak Spanish. It is also the second most studied language and the Hollywood and on the Internet.

Furthermore, as far as the Philippines is concerned, Spanish can be a fundamental tool for many young Filipinos seeking employment as well century or 800 businesses in this country is trying to get a better employment abroad in nursing, tourism, social workers, etc. The United States is the biggest source of remittance for the citizens of the Philippines, and there are around 50 million Spanish-speaking people in their southern borders. In addition, many Latin American countries are constantly increasing their trade and investment relations with Southeast Asia, countries gradually shifting their economic focus toward the Pacific.

If only Spanish were commonly spoken in the Philippines, along with the English language, the Philippines would become the most influential business hub in Asia.

Since I arrived in Manila less than a year ago, I have been surprised by the relative dearth of knowledge of Spanish in the Philippines of today. I would start every talk by saying that I am very confident that Spanish is under no threat of disappearing. Manila has the third biggest Instituto Cervantes in the world in terms of number of students (second only to Madrid and Paris). Spanish is offered in one faculty rules to many students. The real issue is whether we are ready to face the challenge of providing the young generations of Filipinos with the necessary academic teaching that will enable them to study Spanish as a language of choice that will open for them a wealth of opportunities in employment. To this end, I hope to work closely with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education.

Jorge Toribio is the Spanish ambassador to the Philippines.

Memories

HOST FILIPINOS have very short memories. Perhaps is no continue to be fundamentally the system that we use to elect a president—a former president with support bases around her stock and head attempting to leave the country for several destinations purportedly to attend conferences as well as to seek medical assistance—we may find a lot of evidence of her predicament. But let me refresh our collective memories.

During the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, there were (let's say) at parties exclusive in place. One was for her friends and allies another was for her enemies, and those perceived to be threats to her administration.

REVEILLE

Manuel J. Function

For her friends and allies, this is how it worked:

In 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that the Commission on Elections under Chairman Benjamin Abalos committed "violations of law and glaring abuse of discretion" in awarding a billion-peso contract to Mega Pacific Consortium for the supply of automated counting machines. It directed the government to determine criminal liability of public officials involved. Nothing happened. Abalos was promoted. And then some. He was elected to the first three of the Comelec in the House of Representatives, which is the only way to get rid of members of a constitutional commission. The Filipino people lost over a billion pesos in the anomalous deal.

Just before the 2004 presidential election, Joselito "Joey" Rebuelta, former chief of Bicol International and close friend of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was appointed administrator of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation. According to Senate investigation reports, Rebuelta was the "architect" and "broker" in the diversion of P326 million in lotteries funds to the Arroyo campaign till's During Senate hearings on the issue, he ignored all summonses and subpoenas by the body to testify on the allegations. The Arroyo government refused to allow him to leave the country—as hold-departure orders were issued. He applied for asylum in the United States claiming that Miss People's Army had capsized him to kill him. His application was never considered. It was the US government's consideration of his visa that caused his detention in a state facility in Wisconsin. When he returned to the Philippines after his case was dismissed, he was he public office and was defeated. The Filipino Bureaucrat lost more than P700 million. Joe Jr.'s remains scarce free.

Again prior to the 2004 elections, in ways appointed to the Commission a different chairman by the name of Virgilio Garcillano. Archbishop Garcillano already had a reputation of being associated with electoral fraud. He was considered by many as the expert on "dagdag-bawas" operations in the past.

When the "Hello, Garci" tapes surfaced, Garcillano was nowhere to be found. There were reports that he was actually taken out of the country on a private plane to Singapore or even London. Singapore authorities reported that he did not use its passport. He did not leave the country. He did not use it to pursue the land. But he was his passport canceled. His presence and testimony would have helped in clearing the air regarding electoral tampering charges against Arroyo.

His hoped his most prominent double act of broadcasting of its ways as president was the signing of a treaty with Spain entitled, "Treaty on the Transfer of Sovereignty Between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain."

Jose Lacsamana, a Cebu resident and Spanish national, along with six others, were convicted by the Cebu Regional Trial Court in 1999 of kidnapping two students, Marijoy and Jacqueline Chiong. The girls were taken to a house and reportedly raped by the gang. Marijoy was blindfolded and pushed off a cliff. Her broken body was found last August. Jose's was never recovered. Four years later, the Supreme Court, not only affirmed their convictions, but also declared the gang guilty of the crime of rape with homicide and ordered them to pay P100,000 each in damages.

In the guise of reciprocity, the treaty allowed the transfer of Lacsamana to Spain.

For the friends of Arroyo, even a treaty can be perplexed and delivered on a silver platter. As far as Chinese, no Filipinos have been repatriated from a Spanish jail back to the Philippines. Filipinos languishing in jails in other countries do not have the benefit of a similar treaty as those enjoyed by Arroyo. Philippine Ambassador Carlos Salinas should check if Lacsamana is still in prison or under house arrest. He is supposed to serve a 40-year prison term.

What was the reason or reasons or issues as a threat to the Arroyo government. This was before the Supreme Court.

Another "deal" is Smile, who likes the website on the notorious ZTE-NBN broadband project that was overpriced by some $130 million, assisted from Hong Kong in February 2008. He was not his second man who took his luggage and led him down to the airport tunnel without passing immigration or customs.

Indeed, there is no way given a grand tour of the Israeli Consul Expressway for several hours before being reunited with his family in La Salle Greenhills. He was asked to sign all kinds of statements basically to justify his abduction. Policemen do not just carry out these activities on their own. Someone orchestrated the whole operation and someone higher than the commander-in-chief.

After a while, all sorts of charges were thrown at Lozada. His life was in danger and his family had to stay with members of a religious order. Then world was raised upside down.

In July 2005, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes and some 300 of them and more, occupied Oakwood Hotel in Makati City, let to some 20 hours of negotiations with a government-appointed panel. They agreed to give up their arms and surrender under the articles of War. The law, they believe, one of the negotiators, wrote, "Military justice is what they were unanimously pledged by the government—and prosecution in the regular civilian system."

Arroyo did not honor the commitment. Trillanes was tried by a civil court and kept in detention for seven years and seven months, the same length of time that Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. spent in prison.

As the Golden Rule points out, "Do unto others as you would wish them to do unto you."

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Some people would rather forget what happened in Maguindanao.

We've closed our eyes to remember.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)

Pacman, not Leila, should resign

LETTERS

THE PRESIDENT is a political animal. In every Cabinet member, as his alter ego. Therefore, a justice secretary rather than anyone was early else recently forged supreme what issues but this relevant justice would maintain. Decisions should not lightly make confidence in the presidency, or due principals of the greatest good for the greatest number.

Any dereliction case filed against Justice Secretary Leila De Lima will go nowhere because she is being assailed not for dishonesty, immorality, criminality, etc., but for a quasi-political decision not within the defendants' realm.

The legality of the Hacquien-Marquez issue, I trust, is of huge gossiping for lack of sure ballroom dancing. I had asked why high issue? I am told no other venue in Metro Manila was available. Business seemed OK there. In at least 200 guests were not watching the fight.

Somebody called boxing the "beauty set of mental[ness] diet," where one is cheered on while he falls; another subtly in money rules on it. It would be as if our seven among those wrestling gladiators in the Roman coliseum in the days of yore, or seeing a knight in the medieval era, jousting, intent on kill another. I was blindsighted myself like amateurs, or just depart not those part of my borrowed life.

Many go to Manila by Manny Pacquiao's billions that set software a "non-performing liability" (NPL) in the House, as multimillion were being deprived to vote who actualizes shoulder truth as only a sideline or a hobby, who gambles and loses millions of dollars in casinos, seminarians, from a TV show ("Manny Many Prizes"), threatens to sue because of cancelled singing contracts, harasses his members in an examination fiasco done with a Hyundai bag and imported Jet at a time of grave woes for many. Some were angry but he did not do better last Sunday. But, he failed before in preparing against a ballyes fighter. He should resign as detainee congressman to do better as unofficial members.

The issue then is, down a corporation, should he not be expelled from the House of the Senate, Quezon, Palawan and later? So republican issue is more of women. You don't see Hillary Clinton. You are rich, you are respectable, money brings prestige and power. Pacquiao still remain in the House where his colleagues will not see an NPL as a disgrace to it. What "Manny Many Prizes" can do, the majority can do the people's [illegible].

Another case: Among our reports who had pardoned an early 80 yrs. old crossed burning issues among the publish who had relied on the congressional's cynical bull. He sure has apologized for mistreating those who are—which is illegal—and for Leila has done nothing illegal. She should say Manny should resign. His colleagues should worry about unintentional privileges, unrelated to the rule between Manny and El Executive and what happened to their ties. They can't see talk about the labor-peoplers who feel chances her wrongly and now continue to cripple as else they know is all.

—REXIE SALVIAS, xavsier@gmail.com

Right to travel reserved for a privileged few

THE CONSTITUTION guarantees the citizens right to travel inside or the neighbouring countries. However, even if we have this right, the majority of Filipinos do not have the economic capacity to have the expenses of going abroad. Thus, this guarantee is reserved only for the privileged few. Even Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—our ex-dear her (and her husband's) economic capacity to travel could have some from the coffers of the Filipino people themselves, if and when the Hague investigates crimes they by the government to abuse to have no them will be proven true.

Moreover, other consumers from outfits, perhaps, the most expensive hospital and factories in the Philippines, GMA corporation that her right to seek medical care of her choice is trampled by the travel ban. Why, many Filipinos cannot even choose as for hospitalized. In fact, several are not even given the chance to see a doctor during their lifetime.

Non-point-situation here, the situated and the wood. The, DFA is not "consent", yes, something has to be done to democratize the double system.

Gibbs's camp also harped on the rough treatment they got from airport and immigration personnel when GMA and her husband tried to leave the country on May 13. The Arroyos claimed that they were subject to human prejudice. Blah nonsense coming out now according to fund during the 2004 presidential elections, we are not surprised at all. We could be the same people and unscrupulous personnel—although they deny this...were deconstructive.

The problem with the Supreme Court temporary is the fact that it is not clear. Decisions like this should have moral grounds and consider personal matters. DFA and his husband are about to be charged with the very serious crimes of plunder and graft and corruption. If they were forced to go out of the country and never to return, these cases will never have the chance to be tried and heard.

GMA's justice, Secretary Raul Tuazon, offered her bullet-free travel to the Netherlands. But, of course, this is not we could just accept it over in exchange for the risk of GMA saying "I am sorry" from abroad, beyond the reach of the law.

—JULIE L. DY,
Limasan ng Kalalawang Pilipino,
jly914@yahoo.com

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As a background, Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) is one of the unregistered banks of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) to disburse the old-age pensions to Filipino veterans or their widows. Right now, our pensioners have two options to receive their monthly pensions: through the delivery system (money) and the second via automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards. By the latest, for pensioners below 80 years old, the bank requires them to re-activate their ATM cards every six months to verify if they are still living. So pensioners above 80 years old are directed to re-activate their ATM cards every three months.

While this may seem an inconvenience to some, this measure will help ensure that government funds are properly disbursed to the right beneficiaries. Our experience shows that some still are in fraudulently receiving pensions even if a pension even if the veteran is already deceased. The three months' requirement is still much lower than the previous years ago when the aging veterans had to go to the bank every month to claim their old-age pension. Furthermore, the re-activation is very convenient as we may handle this every quarter.

We hope this clarifies matters. We encourage Atenistas to call any PVB Cashpress branch or 891-7503 to 891-7509 and look for Irene Torres, our branch manager, so we can further explain this matter to her and provide the best possible option to receive her PVAO pension.

—MIGUEL ANGELO C. VILLAREAL,
Vice president,
Corporate Communications
and Retail Affairs,
Philippine Veterans Bank

Arroyos should face music, like Erap did

THE RAID (look to the picture of Justice Secretary Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Mike, last Nov. 13 was very much like the "dramatic" update of the famous action-couple, Bonnie and Clyde, to make yesterday television. As Bonnie and Clyde got their comeuppance, so are the Arroyos about to be given their just punishment for the high crimes they are accused of.

Already there are calls for Bright Pinay to stop the Arroyos from leaving the country. They want to issue a flight for Hong Kong and would have been successful had not Justice Secretary Leila de Lima ordered immigration to not impose difficulties to enforce the watch-list order (WLO) she had issued against them.

The Aquino administration has shown a firm political will to ensure that the Arroyos here in the country to face the plunder, graft and corruption, and election sabotage charges against them.

"How can you say the Arroyos where it is clear they want to escape? The ship-to-ship TSO had barely docked and they had already booked two on flights abroad," said my neighborhood news dealer in Filipino.

The Arroyos have said the former presidency is not afforded by a life-sentencing Chavez, but he can that could be treated here.

To be sure, the Arroyos would always try to leave the country, threatening them who would stand in their way with every legal means they a million of pesos in [illegible] would receive.

The Aquino administration needs the full support of the people because the quest for justice pertaining to cheating in the 2004 and 2007 elections and the millions of pesos in public funds that has been squandered during the past administration is not a simple matter.

Because saying that the Arroyos are guilty of the charges pending litigation, but they should get here the accusations like what former President Joseph Estrada did.

Many would have the option to leave the country and go into voluntary exile, yet he did not leave and instead chose to spend time in jail fighting the charges against him.

The Arroyos cannot expect sympathy from the public when all the signals they are sending point to the possibility that they would never return to the Philippines to face the charges against them once they are allowed to leave.

Why are they going to counsel to wish what, the Philippines for its resilience just to run for the obvious reason of escaping the long arm of the law?

—[illegible]
[illegible]@[illegible].com

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Mabuhay ka, **MANNY PACQUIAO!**

Congratulations for successfully defending your WBO Welterweight crown!

You've made us proud once again!

20 advertisements win Araw Awards

From page A1

Complex (CNC) in Pili, Camarines Sur.

The awardees were picked for outstanding direction, cinematography, editing, casting, use of music in film, sound design, visual performance, photography, concept, idea, use of screens, use of outdoor, audiovisual and pop, promo and activations, direct, digital and likes. There were no winners among press or radio commercials.

"This is the Oscars of advertising. It's the biggest show of advertising. We made it tougher. So tough to enter and so tough to win," said Merlee Cruz-Jayme, chair of the Inner Search Creative committee.

Awardees

Pili Productions received four trophies, followed by McCann Philippines with three. DDB Stewart&Co Inc., BBDO Guerrero, United Productions, Publicis Dimbosa Inc., Media Contacts, Pilii Expo Line (Pilimall) got two each, while ZeroOne Media Phils and Pilibits Multimedia, and adDuce Inc., became Philippines Inc., Leo Burnett Manila, Lowe Inc., Straight Shooters Media Inc. and Wet Manila had one each.

Nestlé Philippines was named "Client of the Year" for placing the most number of ads.

Some which stands for "Ad Board Recognition Awards" and is also a Filipino term for "son," connotes a nationalistic dimension that the sun is the centerpiece of the Philippine flag while its light is the way through darkness.

Leading the winners were "School," produced by United Productions for Asian Development Bank, and "Kendi Kuan: Isang Hakbanginhay: Tingala sa Bulsa" by Filmex Gear directors.

AWARD AWARD WINNERS David Guerrero and the rest of the BBDO Guerrero team accept their Gold Kaw Award for "Ad Agency of the Year" from keynote speakers and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (left), chair of the 22nd Philippine Ad Congress, in the event's closing ceremony at Camiling Watersports Complex in Pili, Camarines Sur.

A YouTube post of "Tingala sa Bulsa" portrays two children on opposite sides of the economic divide, playing together on a recess in a school playground while narrating and recounting the completion of human relations. All actors were amateurs who performed so naturally.

Funny and sad

For best cinematography, "School" was again cited along with "Good Night," which Believer Studios Inc. produced for Ayala Center.

"Perfect Dreams," a funny and sad short film about a man who developed overgrown breasts, won for best editing. It was produced by Revolver Studios and PeoMedia Inc. for Andoks Lechon Corp.

For best casting, "Bestfriendship: Hukumbirhay: The Hotel and the Pumpkin," which Straight Shooters Manila Inc. created for Nestlé Philippines, was chosen. Top billed by Eugene Domingo and Dennis Padilla, the funny and light short film tells of a boy with a speech defect, pronouncing "f" as "t" and vice-versa with "k." "Ind obsessed with being a decisioner. In the end, the boy finally found his place in Filipino disfunctionalpinoyness.

For best use of music in film, the Pasionistas grabbed the gold with "Winner" for Rosario's World Manila and "Home" for Nestlé Philippines. The same outfit won for best sound design in film for its work on Republic International's "Action."

The award for best voice/performance in radio went to Damon Philippines with its "Man on Bike" creation for Dynamic Philippines.

"Obsolete Road Trip of a Lifetime" went for media excellence in strategy. Created by Media Contacts for Unilever Philippines, it also won for media excellence in idea.

For best use of screens, Publicis Manila and Javajobprime Studios shared the trophy for their "Nestlé Hukumbirhay: Hukumbirhay" film-anthology.

"Living Billboard," which provides environmental information, received the award for best use of outdoor, ambient and pop. Created by McCann WorldGroup for Coca-Cola Export Corp., it also won for excellence in idea.

A newcomer in the category is "Lumenium," which DMW (formerly) made for the Department of Tourism and Street Communications.

Violence against women

"Stitches," which Illusions Gabriela's advocacy against violence against women, was awarded for media excellence in picture and architecture. Produced by DMW (formerly), it also won a trophy for promo activations.

For outdoor, ambient and pop, two groups were declared winners—BBDO Guerrero for "Handset" and "Carpenters," which it made for Smart Philippines, and "Living Billboard" by McCann WorldGroup.

The Aura Gold for direct went to "Hoodsweet Giselle," Leo Burnett Manila's work for World Wide Food Philippines, for digital to BBDO Guerrero for "Sa Kita Ang Filipinas," which it did for PepsiCo International.

For film, the award was bagged by Lowe Inc., with "Selena Cosmetic Remover" for Unilever RFM.

Jayme said the Araw Awards involved different disciplines, such as climate, advertising agencies, production houses and media agencies.

Judging was done in two parts with entries initially reduced to around online by 60 of the industry's best minds. The final phase took place on site with 10 judges gathering at the Mahaw Bhatgat Ca. Hotel to decide which of the surviving entries changed the game enough to win the bronze, silver and gold trophies in 17 categories.

This year's award sponsors were Intermobiles, Hugo Inquiries Digital, 106 Productions, Newsbreak, Petrosphere and Amelia, and Underground Expo.

From page A1

Yuletide carols, to the accompaniment of the 60-piece Manila Symphony Orchestra.

Conducting the music was maestro Ryan Cayabyab, who only a few months ago, when asked about the one thing he had never done before, had indicated the word "drumming" or such a gesture.

The highly respected composer, arranger and conductor got the surprise of his life when Lady Armanda Bonus, vice-chair of the Araneta Group, offered to make his wish a reality by recording the Big Dancing collection as a live concert for Araneta employees.

Cayabyab said that ABS-CBN came on as a partner by providing technical assistance and lending several of its performing talents.

41 groups

The choir members—some belonging to award-winning groups like the Philippine Madrigal Singers, University of the Philippines (UP) Concert Chorus, UP Singing Ambassadors and Ateneo Singing Blue Singers—came from 41 of the country's chorales under the Philippine Choral Directors Association.

Cayabyab told the listeners that all of the choral groups, especially those from the provinces, had spent for their trip to Manila, including their lodging and shopping, just to be part of the event.

Cayabyab told the audience that one group, the Silliman University Cantilevers & Crescendo Ambassadors, initially missed their flight to Manila and had to divert to Cebu to make it to the concert.

Therefore, dubbed "Maestro Ryan Cayabyab at Isang Libong Isang Pasko," was hosted by two beauty queens, Venus Raj and Shamcey Supsup—2010 Miss Universe fourth runner-up and 2011 Miss Universe third runner-up, respectively.

It also featured soprano-rock singers led by Rachel Gonzalez, Lea Salonga, Jed Madela and Arnel Pineda, as well as young but not search winners Angeline Quinto and Mariechelle Perena; HeartBreak Pride Rascual and anthems singer KC Concepcion had cupcake-sized roles.

For his repertoire, Cayabyab dug into his own collection of Christmas tunes, plus several classics and new songs by young composers.

"Being happy is a choice," Concepcion said after singing "Hallelujah Ryan" by Peejay Pastor, "my Jose Javier Reyes.

One of the things that makes Pili shine happy during Christmas, she said, is the peculiar smell of food cooked only for the holidays, as when the song's lyrics implied: "May liang pulot nitata at kusot na tila tinderang bangus ay ngas kinahanda ..."

Blue Christmas

Not Christmas is also about feeling blue in the absence of a loved one—as experienced by those performers.

Pointy-eye shifty charm as he sang the 1970s hit by Susan Fernhill, "Miss Kita Kung Christmas," in his patented chak-muler-and-female voice. Dominic was warmly applauded for her rendition of Francis Bumbalo's "Pasko Na Sinta Ko." Loud clapping greeted Rivera when he sang his own "Sana Pagdating Pasko."

The choirs intermittent emergence with Gallich of singers—known for their sonorous vocal range—send exclamations after the other. Gamotan interpreting Felipe de Leon's "Paruparong Ginto(ng)"; Mudella doing Cayabyab's "Mambing Bangget"; and Salonga singing the Cayabyab-Sembrano collaboration, "Pandying Walang Hanggan."

Hysterics greeted Pascual with his rendition of another Cayabyab-Reyes blockbuster, "Isang Sandigan."

In between those numbers were the dulcets pieces—"Kaimpens ng Sinfonietta," "Ipanganak Muli," "Bisdak Bunso," "Sa Pagbuong Daraing," "Wanco Po Kayong," "Pasko Na Mahal" and "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit."

The sound of 1,000 voices gave everyone a glimpse of how-as we can.

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Solons want SC spokesperson disciplined

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Marlon Ramos

LAWMAKERS are asking the Supreme Court to discipline its spokesperson, Jose Midas Marquez, for allegedly misleading the public on the temporary restraining order (TRO) the tribunal issued last week against the travel restrictions imposed by the Department of Justice on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Marquez, however, defended himself from allegations that he intentionally fed the media with erroneous information that the TRO was on contempt and effective immediately.

"I'm standing by what I announced during the press conference," Marquez told the reporters over the phone. "That's what (the justices who voted with) the majority told me. That's the position of the majority."

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the Supreme Court should investigate Marquez if the spokesperson went out of bounds and misreported the TRO wrongly in the middle of the airport drama in the aborted departure of former Congressman Iggy Tuesday.

"It's very administrative and spokesperson of the Supreme Court...sadly, the tribunal cast to recognize him and impose disciplinary actions if warranted," Gonzales said.

Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III said the high court should demonstrate whether Marquez had deliberately misled the public for claiming that the TRO was executory when the Arroyo couple had failed to comply with one of its three conditions.

Tañada said Marquez's statements Justice Mariano Del Castillo had argued that the Rule 15-TRO had remained ineffective because the Arroyo couple had failed to comply with Condition No. 2...that "the petitioners shall appoint a legal representative-in-fact authorized to receive notices, orders and other legal processes on their behalf during their absence."

Sereno said "the TRO is executorial, and cannot be made out of until compliance has been done. (As) there was failure by petitioners to comply with Condition No. 2, the TRO is implicitly deemed suspended until there is compliance with such condition. A conditional TRO is what it is...conditional."

Reacting to Sereno's dissenting opinion, Marquez noted him on his earlier statement that the high court doesn't like the TRO "to fall here and afford," thus, allowing Arroyo and her companions to leave the country.

Sereno warned Marquez not to "go beyond his role," stating that he had "no authority to interpret any of our judicial issuances, including the present resolution."

She said it was "a baseless [allegation] never had from the beginning."

She claimed the majority ruled that the TRO was "suspended pending compliance" with its Nov. 15 resolution.

"I also spoke with other justices than Chief Justice Renato Corona, who voted in let Arroyo with instrument abroad for her dependent minor heart disease, explained to him what transpired during the closed-door deliberations.

"I also spoke with other justices in the majority and I got the same information," he said.

In an e-mailed statement, Marquez said while Sereno was entitled to her own view, her "dissenting opinion is just that...a dissent."

GMA to retain her seat, perks in Congress

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAMBURGER Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will retain her seat and all its perks even if she cannot go to the House of Representatives because of her ailment, according to House leaders.

"In the House we can say immediate changes," Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said. "We may allow Arroyo may be placed under hospital arrest for allegedly sabotaging the results of the 2007 senatorial elections.

The Pasay City Regional Trial Court issued the arrest warrant in response to the criminal complaint filed by the Commission on Elections.

"She continues to be a member of the House, with the same rights and privileges as the rest. The only difference is she cannot attend sessions," said Malapatay Leader Neptali Gonzales II.

With Arroyo facing the same fate as her predecessor former President Joseph Estrada, calls for her arrest from the House ran for four months.

Estrada spent six years under arrest in a Tanay resthouse while the Sandiganbayan prodded on with his plunder trial. He was found guilty by the court but was later pardoned by then President Arroyo.

"Even assuming it is true, the electoral sabotage cannot be used to commit her because it occurred before she became a congresswoman," Gonzales said.

SC may still undo arrest order on GMA

From page A1

dict prevent her from leaving for medical treatment abroad. Maharadhaj has said the step was a move to seek asylum and escape prosecution.

Santiniano told reporters on Friday about the possibility Arroyo would be freed should the high tribunal rule in favor of the petitions questioning the constitutionality of the panel.

"If the Supreme Court would say it is illegal or unconstitutional, that might be the effect ... it might nullify (her arrest)," said Santiniano, who was among the of the seven members of the Committee on Justice who voted for the filing of electoral sabotage against Arroyo on Friday.

Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez told the reporters yesterday that the petitions filed by Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and the former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos remained pending.

"If the panel is adjudged as unconstitutional, then of course all the proceedings conducted by that panel would have to be nullified," Marquez said. "But again, we have to wait for the decision of the court. I don't want to prejudge what the court will do next."

Arroyo, who is suffering a rare bone ailment, is now under "hospital arrest" at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City after Pasay City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge Jesus Mojica found probable cause to warrant trial of the former President and 37 others for plunder.

The Comelec-DOJ panel early on Friday approved the resolution charging Arroyo, Jane dos, other Justice Secretary Leila de Lima against a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court on her directive banning Arroyo from leaving the country for medical treatment.

Legal eagles say the TRO is an "extraordinary measure" to prevent irreparable harm against individuals brought by "awesome" state powers.

P-Noy Express victim

Even election commissioners fell into take part in the decision, claiming they were not given a copy of the joint Comelec-DOJ resolution.

Hence here, the documents, along with voluminous attachments, was sent to the Pasay City RTC and the case was raffled off.

Mojica, who had issued the controversial order to arrest Arroyo, also set his bond, having found probable cause in the charge against Arroyo.

The Arroyo camp denounced the court manner in which the case was "railroaded," claiming that the former President had just become a victim of the "Pork Express."

While raising the possibility of a negative court decision, Malacañang expressed confidence about the legality of the panel, which he said was based on Republic Act No. 9369 which allowed Comelec to participate with executive agencies for investigation purposes. "So we can say that it is backed with legal support," he said.

But should the high court decide against the panel, Santiniano said the Comelec's recourse was to conduct and resolve the investigation on its own without the need to depend on DOJ.

"But we won't go back to square one because there are already affidavits submitted," he said.

Lawyers for Arroyo and Abalos have pointed out that the Comelec is mandated under the Constitution to conduct its own independent body and to partner with the justice department or the executive branch the joint panel had become nothing more than a "kangaroo court."

They pointed out that the panel was specifically created to prosecute the former President, just like the ill-fated Philippine Truth Commission, which the high tribunal had declared as unconstitutional for being a violation of the due process clause enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

They also said that Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes and De La Salle opposition lawyers during the election.

De Lima has said that the joint panel was created "so that we'll have a smooth process since both Comelec and DOJ have concurrent jurisdiction on election offenses."

President Aquino has said he wants Arroyo in jail before Christmas to fulfill a campaign promise to prosecute the former President for alleged corruption and electoral sabotage.

Southern Police District readies room for GMA's detention

From page A1

now a Pampanga representative, could be while in detention, according to SPD spokesperson, Chief Insp. Jenny Tecson.

"We have been instructed by our officer in charge to begin preparing for the eventuality of the former President's detention in our headquarters," Tecson said in a phone interview.

The air-conditioned room measures 3 by 4 meters and has a sink with running water. A mat or bathroom itself is one side.

An affidavit of the Catholic Church's prison ministry said Arroyo could spend detention under the care of a hospital or a room in the detention facility for the military.

But militant groups said no special treatment should be given to Arroyo.

Before his conversion, the public information office also served as a library and hostage for reporters covering the SPD, whose jurisdiction covers the cities of Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa, and the municipality of Pateros.

Senior Supt. James Basaya, deputy district director for administration and SPD officer in charge, assured the room is in ready by Monday morning, where Pasay RTC Judge Jesus Mojica resumes the trial of the senior ruler from the police, Tecson said.

WAITING FOR GMA A holding cell awaits former President Arroyo at the Southern Police District headquarters in Taguig City. The 35-by-30-feet room, with a sink and an air conditioning unit, was once a police library. —PHOTO BY EDD OLEZ

Humanitarian reasons

Rodolfo Diamante, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care, said the prison mission would not object to a hospital or a house arrest for Arroyo.

"For humanitarian reasons, it should be granted," Diamante said. However, citing the bad conditions prisoners suffer under the current jail system. "They can't confine her in one jails."

He also pointed to Arroyo's poor health condition, not her being a "very important person," as the main reason why the former President should be allowed to be placed under either a hospital or house arrest.

"Health-wise... that should be the No. 1 consideration," Diamante said.

But he said the same consideration must also be accorded to inmates with medical conditions who are languishing in cramped detention cells with deficient health facilities.

The Commission on Prison Pastoral Care is advocating restorative justice, which includes better conditions in the country's jails and has the same treatment for prisoners, especially the sick and elderly.

Protest at hospital

To drive home their point that Arroyo should not be given special treatment, around 20 men, women and children yesterday staged a protest at St. Luke's Medical Center.

They pepped out of two vehicles with placards and attempted to proceed to the hospital driveway. Police officers pushed them to a sidewalk in front of the hospital.

Senior Supt. Romeo Apolinario, Taguig City police chief, told the protesters belonging to Bayan Muna, Selda and Health Alliance for Democracy that they did not have a permit to carry out any mass action here.

The police chief gave the protesters 30 minutes to air their grievances and disperse. The group then dispersed peacefully.

Police on Friday served the warrant of arrest on Arroyo in connection with the electoral sabotage charges filed by the opposition Senator Panfilo Lacson in the Pasay City RTC. She was booked, fingerprinted and photographed in her hospital room on Saturday.

P-Noy's double kill of GMA sends chills down public's spine

From page A1

charges and serving of the arrest warrant on her was complete, the chief executive's approval unprecedented in the annals of the Philippine judicial system...like Aquino promised to accord her due process.

"She will have an equal opportunity to defend herself in court because she has the right to be presumed innocent like any ordinary Filipino," he said. "That is the process that a vendor or driver, teacher or garbage collector, cop or clerk, from the highest post to the ordinary person, should all go through, taking no sides. Let the accused on the march for truth and making the guilty accountable."

The President expressed confidence that the Filipino people were behind his effort to prosecute those behind alleged electoral fraud in the past.

"And it is very good to know that even from the start, even while I was outside the country, you are all behind me, especially on this issue," he said. "I know that I am not alone. As I drive about your welfare, you continue to give me strength."

He added that the prosecution was the result of the "reforms I have laid out to combat corruption."

The core principle of this program is this, he said, "the guilty should be made accountable because if not, it would be like we have kept the door open to the corrupt...we would want to abuse our people."

Public lynching

The impromptu speech served notice that the President, in kick-starting the prosecution, would not allow any form of public lynching of Arroyo, aimed at winning public opinion behind his actions intended to send her to jail indefinitely by Christmas.

Following her arrest, Arroyo is languishing at St. Luke's Medical Center, where she is under the watch for custodial detention, and awaiting to stand trial in the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

In a day Friday's breathtaking developments unfolded, including:

(1) The government dismissed the door shut on an attempt by Arroyo to fly out to Hong Kong last Tuesday to seek medical treatment abroad in defiance of the Supreme Court, which issued a TRO (temporary restraining order) which sought to stop the joint-inspectorial from implementing its directive that banned the departure of Arroyo who was put on its watch list order (WLO).

(2) In blocking the departure, the justice department, by disobeying the execution of the TRO, put the administration on a head-on confrontation with the high court.

(3) While the high court rejected the government's petition for reconsideration of its TRO, the administration undercut the high tribunal by rushing the criminal complaint against Arroyo within a day, to enable it to file the case with the Pasay City RTC on Friday and consequently gave it no reason to stop her departure. The complaint handed the administration the key to arrest Arroyo and hold her indefinitely on the grounds that she, as a private citizen, is flight risk and unbailable...only the other that she would be under custody at a government center indefinitely.

De Lima's rule

While the justice department refused to implement the high court's TRO, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima arbitrarily ended the short by interpreting the court's order as a super-high court without a countervailing mandate, with its own version of the rule of law and due process.

De Lima said the restraint for Arroyo's arrest had rendered "moot" the issues arising from the high court's TRO. She claimed that with the warrant of arrest, Arroyo "is compelled to stay in the country and face the charges of electoral sabotage, bringing us closer to uncovering the truth behind the controversies surrounding the 2007 elections."

De Lima gave assurance the government would uphold "every right that Arroyo is entitled under the Constitution." She remains to be seen.

The arbitrary and summary manner in which the government rushed and abridged legal procedures did not inspire confidence in the government's observance of a fair trial.

Thus, the issuance of the arrest order averted a damaging conflict between the administration and the high court.

While the issue raged over the immediate compliance of the TRO, the government was on a mode to disobey the court and the airport was barricaded with the immigration officials and authorities acting like human floormats under the administration's orders to trash Arroyo's right of habeas. Authorities were taking orders from the justice department that was ignoring the flames of disobedience.

The police and the state's forces of coercion were activated to follow the standing policy determined to prevent Arroyo from boarding at all cost as she could face trial.

Mr. Aquino had down the risk, saying, "We need low have the law arrangement if this will be used evil. If she won't return, how can she be made answerable?"

Hypocrisy

On Friday, De Lima said Mr. Aquino wanted Arroyo to be treated with "utmost respect."

The hypocrisy of this statement should not be lost in the context of the deployment of awesome state resources to deliver results on a government's obsessive policy of accountability and transparency.

The truth in judgment in the prosecution of the electoral sabotage complaint is the overwhelming demonstration of the government's devotion to due process. It's full of shed-vails.

Prior to the filing of the case, the target of the all-out offensive to bring Arroyo to court had been subject to an intense media publicity.

The immediate consequence of the showdown between the President and the Supreme Court is that it diminished the credibility of the high tribunal on an independent institution.

The disobedience to the TRO reduced the court into a toothless arbiter of justice.

The top of will between the court and Mr. Aquino highlights the President's no-holds-barred approach in conflicts with other constitutional institutions.

It threw into bold relief a presidential tendency to follow a winner-takes-all mode.

The winner determines all rules of justice and combat.

Malfeol's final solution

This is why the near wound of public outrages to get the people's attention is the arrest of Arroyo and hold her indefinitely is sending chills down the spine of the public.

It follows the pattern of ruthless retribution in the gangster underworld where dealing with informers ends by burying their disgraceful operations in lawless.

In the Mafia, the squealers are first battered to death with baseball bat as dinner—and given the finishing touches. They are often by the likeliest to make sure they are dead.

The terror and context of the Mafia final solution are different from those surrounding the campaign to bring the targets of the government's slung institutional assets.

The President and his promises are not Mafiosi, but it's the "final solution" method that leaves many Filipinos fearful here.

I am uncertain about how Arroyo would survive this new round of trial by politics—to quietly.

Across the NATION

Kato group behind kidnapping, says AFP

ALICOSAN, North Cotabato—The military has tagged renegade Moro rebels as behind the abduction of a relative of a North Cotabato town mayor on Saturday.

Col. Leopoldo Cobus, speaking for the Eastern Mindanao Command, quoted North Cotabato Deputy Governor Emmanuel Piñol as saying that Datu Guiamel Alim Kato was responsible for the kidnapping of Rosy Cabayo, 23, lesser half of Aleosan town Mayor Lucido Cabayo and student of Southern Mindanao Colleges in nearby Midsayap town, were followers of Ameril Umra Kato, leader of a Moro Islamic Liberation Front breakaway group.

Kato, leader of the newly formed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, has long been wanted for attacking, in 2008, civilian communities in five towns of North Cotabato.

Mayor Cabayo said the kidnappers were after his son Jason, but married Rosy by her.

Rosy had attended a village fiesta on Friday evening and was heading for home at past midnight on board a passenger motorcycle called "habal-habal" when gunmen on board motorcycles and riding a pickup truck flagged down the victim's vehicle in Barangay Crossing Dunding.

The victim was transferred to the pickup truck that sped toward Barangay Dunggoan, an earlier village known as a kidnappers' and bandits' safe haven.

Responding policemen and soldiers found the pickup truck torched by the suspects.

Mayor Cabayo has appealed to the abductors to free Rosy, saying the boy was poor and works at home help to support his education. (Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao)

Leak at Marcopper mine site again raises fears

By Gerald Gene R. Quevedo
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BOAC, Marinduque—A leak found at a mine dam of the abandoned Marcopper mining site here has raised fears among town folk of an impending catastrophic flash flood in this capital town.

A report released late last month by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said leaks were found on a control tunnel of the Maguila-Guila Dam of Marcopper Mining during a field inspection conducted by MGB personnel last July.

Emelie Quevedo, the provincial environment, natural resources officer, said MGB's field inspectors found that the leaks came from a water pipe inside valve of the dam's tunnel.

MGB has strongly recommended the replacement of all the check valves of the tunnel, he said, even as the leaking valve has been replaced by the current owner of Marcopper.

Marcopper ceased operations in 1996 when the whole town of Boac was submerged in a flashflood-type flowing debris by a collapsed tunnel of the mining company's Tapian Pit in March of that year. The spill was considered the worst mining disaster in the country, rendering the Boac River "biologically dead."

In 1997, Placer Dome, which owned the mining firm, divested from Marcopper through a wholly owned Canadian holding company called MR Holdings. Control of the mine operation remained intact.

But MR Holdings keeps a skeletal workforce at the mining site to maintain the company's equipment and buildings and as administrators of company records.

Maguila-guila Dam is among the dams of Marcopper identified to be in "imminent danger of collapsing" by the United States Geological Services as early as 1996 or after the spill occurred in Boac River.

It was built to supply water for Marcopper's operations and for household use of residences near it and is currently carrying about 34 million cubic meters of water or more, Quevedo said.

Miguel Magalong, executive director of the Mines Geosciences Bureau Environmental Concerns (Mabec), warned that a collapse of Maguila-guila Dam would be a major catastrophe with a very large magnitude of devastating effects in crops and lives in almost 50 percent of the 54,000 population of Boac.

Boac, located in the western section of the island province, is an agricultural town with 16,200 hectares of its 21,272 for land uses devoted to agriculture, mostly planted with coconut trees.

"With no maintenance done at the mine's dams at all, this is a major disaster in the making," said Magalong. "We are just pray that none of these worst scenarios will come our way."

Boac Mayor Roberto Madrigal said contingency plans and evacuation and warning systems have been established by the disaster risk reduction and management councils in the municipal and barangay levels in the event of a massive flooding if any of Marcopper's mining dams or pits would collapse.

Mayor assured the municipal government in formulating the contingency plans and even provided wreaths first aid and search and rescue equipment, he said.

But the mayor admitted that they have not been conducting regular warning, evacuation or search and rescue drills that would help the residents in the event of a disaster.

20 child-soldiers get scholarships

By Nash B. Mendoza and Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—For "giving up arms," at least 20 child-soldiers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) got educational benefits under a regional government program with international funding agencies, an official said.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has committed to release more minors as combatants and that children were inside rebel camps were of MILF fighters' families.

The MILF said its camps also double as communities for rebel fighters and their families.

But an official of an Australian government-funded education program had earlier said the children's presence inside rebel camps was enough to consider them child-combatants.

Musa Ali, secretary of the regional labor office, said the child-combatants would be provided training by the Technical Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

The program, she said, was being supported by the government and foreign partners.

Rashad Ruman, 23, special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Conference, lead author and chief Washington support program that would free some children from armed participation in conflicts.

Ruman noted that armed conflict in southern Philippines has, in some extent, reduced training programs on social and training and militia events, which, he said, is a concern he connects to everyone.

In Zamboanga City, the military raised no claim over the recruitment of minors by the Abu Sayyaf.

The recruitment was uncovered with the arrest of a 12-year-old child during the Nov. 14 raid by authorities on a suspected Abu Sayyaf lair in Sumisip, Basilan, according to Army spokesperson Maj. Harold Cabunoc.

The child, who is in Grade 6, has since been turned over to social welfare officials, he said.

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Employee loses job due to dishonesty

By Carla P Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas has dismissed an employee of the Negros Occidental Provincial Treasurer's Office for absconding close to P600,000 in public funds.

The Ombudsman found Revenue Collection Clerk I Eden Renato Dasay administratively guilty of serious dishonesty and dismissed her from the service with forfeiture of benefits and perpetual disqualification to hold public office.

The Ombudsman directed Negros Occidental Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. to enforce the dismissal decision forthwith.

But Dasay has disappeared since 2010 and was removed to have left the country, said Provincial Treasurer Wilfa Generoso.

Dasay was one of the five employees under the Provincial Treasurer's Office who had incurred such shortages based on the audit conducted by the Commission on Audit (COA) on Oct. 4, 2007. COA then filed a complaint before the Ombudsman's Visayas.

Four others were revenue collection clerk Lourdjilda Penaranda, clerk Dennis Jojo, Antolito Deza and Abigail Sacayo.

Penaranda and Jojo had been dismissed from the service for failing to account for P107,247 and P140,849, respectively. Antolito opposed the Ombudsman decision.

Deza had settled her cash shortage of P605,861. Sacayo, who could not account for P135,681, was still under investigation.

In the case of Dasay, her cash shortage reached P559,239.

In a 12-page decision, the Ombudsman said Dasay appropriated for her benefit, in a letter dated April 12, 2007:

"The records speak for themselves and I cannot offer any plausible excuse that could at least alleviate the enormity of what I have done. It was done out of extreme necessity and under very compelling circumstances," she said.

Dasay said she started incurring shortages in December 2005 when she used the money to pay an overdue loan. She admits, however, piled up more after her father died in a hospital on Jan. 16, 2006.

On top of her debts, Dasay said she had to take care of the needs of her three children and ailing mother. Before she knew it, the cash shortage reached five-figures anymore, she said.

As a result, "I was tempted and forced to make use of my collections to pay off my obligations," she said.

The office of the Ombudsman's decision said Dasay abused her position and her acts of dishonesty made her unfit to remain in government service.

Tiwi eyes becoming tuna capital of Luzon

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TIWI, Albay—The predominantly rich Tiwi town in Albay might soon become the "tuna" capital of Luzon after the fish may be found to be in abundance in the waters off this town fronting the eastern seaboard of Bicol facing the Pacific Ocean.

Sen. Feinzel Rengifrom, chairman of the Senate committee on food security and agriculture, said the town's potential to supply tuna for both local and foreign markets could even rival that of tuna supplying areas in the Visayas and Mindanao like General Santos City.

Rengifrom, who was here Friday, said the data found off the coastal waters of Lagonoy Gulf in Camarines Sur bordering Albay to be belonged to species called "Albacore Thunnus."

The albacore is a type of tuna that could be marketed as "white meat tuna." It is found in open waters of all tropical and temperate oceans, with length of up to 140 centimeters (4.5 feet) and weight of up to 40 kilograms.

Albacore is a prized food because it is caught by pole and line, long-line fishing, trolling and some purse seining.

This is good news for local fishery because unlike in other tuna-fishing areas, Tiwi fishermen only use the hook-and-line fishing method, in compliance with the World Wide Fund (WWF) policy, according to municipal agriculturist Leonila Corrales.

She said the WWF policy was being carried out in Lagonoy Gulf and in Dacaloosan Mindoro in order to safeguard the fish-eries' sustainability.

Furthermore, fishers in Tiwi could catch tuna just 2 kilometers from the town's shoreline, she revealed.

With appropriate government and private sector interventions, the town's own mineral and aquatic resources could also be transformed into a tourist destination, said Pangilinan, who was here to speak on the Our Fishers' Future on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries.

"Local and foreign tourists will find the place enjoyable, where they can dine and savor the delicious tuna or tuna grilled, steamed or the famous Japanese delicacy sashimi," he said.

Government support could come in by funding the setting up of a fish landing site that would also be used as a central trading post that would feed the fishermen directly to buyers, eliminating the need to go through middlemen, he added.

Wilfredo Oracenia, chairperson of the town's Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council, said they would welcome a central trading post to middlemen engaged in the buying and sell of tuna products have been declaring anti-dumpsite ing the price of tuna.

Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources provincial officer Ariel Pequisto said Asia thrives on the so-called "tuna belt" in Lagonoy Gulf covering the coastal towns of Tiwi in Albay and Lagonoy town in Camarines Sur.

Tiwi, a first class municipality in Albay (pop. 44,361 in 9,896 households), is the seat of the Tiwi Geothermal Plant operated by the Manila Corp. producing 330 megawatts of electricity for the Luzon grid.

Tiwi's coastline covers 17 km. It has 1,440 accredited fishermen operating 750 registered fishing boats engaged in tuna fishing, said Corrales in a briefing during the forum.

She said an average of 10.8 metric tons of tuna have been caught per year by Tiwi fishermen for the past three years, with the marine products ranging from P90 to P170 per kilogram during the lean months and as low as P50 during the peak season.

Corrales said to sustain the tuna fisheries in Tiwi and to address and thwart illegal fishing practices in the area, the local government has established a 4.4-square kilometer Lagonoy fish sanctuary and marine reserve.

She said they have required fishermen and their fishing boats to be accredited and registered to closely check that fishery regulations are being followed.

SANTA'S PHOTO OP
Children pose with Santa Claus as their parents snap their photographs at the Christmas Village just up by the Baguio Country Club in the summer capital. The Christmas Village features everything about Christmas—trees adorned with colorful lights and lanterns, displays displaying snow-covered villages, Christmas trees, snowmen, Santa Claus and even snowfall, courtesy of machines that spew out bubbles to simulate falling snow. EDGARD GARCIA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Ormoc family walks the talk for the environment

By Elvie Raman-Rua
Inquirer Visayas

ORMOC CITY—Think love for nature is shown by the trees and landscaped garden that surround their home is this city.

But the Hopkirk family doesn't merely talk about their love for the environment. They also walk the talk.

They have led count on the number of animals that they have bought from peddlers and then later set free in the wild.

The latest was the 11-kilogram male hawksbill that Leyte Limasawa Hopkirk, 46, from a neighbor last month and was later freed in the sea. If Lyre didn't buy the 2-year-old sea turtle, it would surely end up in a chicken pot.

Lyzel's love for animals is shared by her husband, Hough, a 56-year-old New Zealander who works as an auto mechanic in an oil rig in Manila, and her three daughters—Lorraine Rose, 21, Trisha, 20, and Dachelle, 18.

"We are not environmentalists that those sort of attitude should be kept in captivity. We bought most of them in our front line," she added.

Lyzel said they even have an animal cemetery in their yard where they buried their pet chickens, many cats, rats, cobras, monkey, birds, snakes and dogs.

Lyzel said Dachelle recalled that while growing up, their parents have been adopting animals.

According to Lyzel, people have been coming to them to sell different kinds of animals because the family would rather buy them than see them abused. The family always thought of them. Instead, they set them free.

It is not surprising that the family is passionate with the animals.

Hough's great grandfather—Dr. Cyril Spontaneously May Hopkirk—was a world-renowned entomologist whose research focused on diseases that affected the farm sector during his time.

Dr. Hopkirk was officer in charge of the Wallacerille Animal Research Center in New Zealand for 21 years, from 1923 to 1945.

The Hopkirk family search continues, the building of which started in August 2005, was named after Dr. Hopkirk.

LOVING. Rose Hopkirk with a hawksbill turtle.

After he resigned from Wallacerille, Dr. Hopkirk was senior veterinarian of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Now, Hough's children have shown the same compassion as Dr. Hopkirk's.

Lorraine planned to specialize in environmental law when she passes the bar next year, but joined the newly-organized Greenpeace Sunseeding, an environmental group whose advocacy is to promote and preserve the whale sharks, locally known as butanding, in Oslob.

Rachele is part of the Island Nature Organization, a non-profit animal rescue organization based in Cebu and is affiliated with friends for the Protection of Animals, a US-based nonprofit organization.

Trisha had pursued early childhood education and now works as a teacher in New Zealand.

Lyzel recalled that they were all happy to see the Hopkirk's son birth returned in the sea.

"It gives me and my family pleasure to see such a beautiful creature be released back into the ocean," Lyzel said.

"We are stewards of our Lord. It is our responsibility to take care of these animals. They are not food. They are supposed to be swimming in the ocean."

NEWSBRIEFS

TUGUEGARAO CITY

Ex-cop chief missing

A RAMBLE police chief in Baggao, Cagayan, was reported missing after his van fell into a river in that town on Friday, police said.

Senior Supt. Mike Aplasca, Cagayan police director, said search and rescue operations continued on Saturday to look for retired Supt. Dominador Tuppal, who was feared to have been swept away by a strong current in a river in Barangay Bitag Grande after the accident.

Aplasca said the van was recovered from the river but that searchers failed to find Tuppal, who drove the vehicle, and said he is the lone occupant. Reports said Tuppal was crossing a bridge that was being repaired in Sitio Bisaya when he lost control of the van, causing it to plunge into the river some 30 meters below.

Fidencio Dupo Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

TAGUM CITY

4 hurt in blast

FOUR soldiers were wounded when an improvised bomb said to have been planted by communist rebels exploded in a forested village of Monkayo, Compostela Valley, early Saturday, said Maj. Jacob Dulgado, commander of the army's 10th Infantry Battalion.

The soldiers were immediately evacuated to the Davao Regional Hospital in Davao City after suffering shrapnel injuries in the 2:30 a.m. explosion in Barangay Casoon. The soldiers, belonging to the 25th Infantry Battalion, were conducting combat patrol when the explosion took place, he said.

Col. Leopoldo Salon, spokesperson of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, said a five-minute firefight also ensued between the soldiers and the New People's Army rebels responsible for the explosion.

Jonathan Libron with a report from Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Fire hits market

NINE stalls, four houses and two commercial buildings were destroyed on Saturday night when a fire hit one of the structures inside the public market in St. Bernard town, Southern Leyte.

No one was reported hurt but at least P10 million worth of property was destroyed in the blaze that broke out at 8:30 p.m., said Jose Rizaldy, information officer of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Council.

The fire started from a fireplace at the back of the structure's stall and quickly spread to the stalls and nearby houses, said Rizaldy. The structures, which was made of wood and G.I. sheets, housed 91 stalls. The fire was contained after nine hours.

Jane Arnaz, Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY

New Capiz bishop

PRO-NUNCIO is underway for the installation of Bishop-Jose Fanti-Advincula, who is set to be installed as Capiz's third archbishop on Jan. 11, 2012, said outgoing Capiz Archbishop Mitgil Olave-Inso Cattle Gordoncillo.

Pope Benedict XVI has announced the appointment of Advincula, 58, of the San Carlos Diocese in Negros Occidental.

Felipe E. Calleja, Inquirer Visayas

Aces dodge upset axe

By Jaya Honrero

ALASKA coach Joel Banal shivered at the thought of winless Shopinas even pulling off a breakthrough win at his fans' expense.

Some Three extinguished Banal's fears last night, improving himself with Aces's pride on the line to fill the Aces past the Globe, 86-80, in the PBA Philippine Cup at Ynares Sports Coliseum.

Three steals were down the stretch, by parlook over the high-leaping Elmer Espinola with 54.3 seconds left giving Alaska an 84-80 lead after the Globe had some valiant looked.

"At some point in the game, I was a little bit scared," said Banal, whose Aces are now tied with the Powerade Tigers at 5-7 in their three-contests in standings for the last quarter lead spot.

Ildefonso's devastating (3-5) steal up sent Banal to Globe to 81 Ames, 80-78, for a share of fourth with the Globe Bolts in the second game.

Jayson Ilig had 17 points (tied 8 rem) make Mark Barroca, Kelly Raymundo and Marc Pingris who inflicted a fifth defeat against four wins on the second Invitational Cup Group.

"Our guys made some clutch plays in the stretch. They established James but it kind of opened up the floor for everybody else," said B-Meg coach Tim Cone.

The Contender coated their sixth win against four setbacks after beating the Gin Kings in a less than two hour minute stretch.

Yancy De Ocampo, who was on his skipped by the Kings to the Contender, saw little action while Ken Manchellas, Cimbron's newest acquisition in that trade, was good for just 11 minutes.

The Globe, who dropped their 12th straight game, seemed on the verge of ending a long drought before they were doomed by turnover misses by Espinola, Paul Lee and Gil Jarod.

Jarod finished with 16 saves Eagle 24 points after going six of nine from three-point range.

They are now tied for the Barangay Ginebra league losing streak in a conference with Mikwon Points which showed 12 straight outings in the 2007-08 Philippine Cup.

One more defeat and the Globe will be Great Taste and Coca-Cola Bits with 12 losses in the 1982 and 1994 Fiesta Conference, respectively.

Three finished with 15 points and eight rebounds while Joe B Reyes had 13 and 17 boards. Ian several more four, for Cic Avon, who square circuits 14 points tied midway to the fourth.

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Metropoint Mall
Pasay City

Joselito Deo
Former Employee
Giga Red
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Carlito Agang
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4 dead in 5-hour QC fire

500 houses, ₱7M worth of property lost

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FOUR people, including a 7-year-old girl and her 10-month-old brother, were killed in a predawn fire which hit a community of informal settlers in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, and left at least 1,500 families homeless.

Chief Supt. Bobbie Bustos, Quezon City fire marshal, identified three of the victims as Jasper Bailon, 26; Ariane Joy Alcala, 7, and her brother, Alfred John, 10 months.

4th victim still unidentified

The fourth victim, according to Bustos, is a sixty-something man yet to be identified.

His body was found in the house where the blaze reportedly started, he said.

The fire was first reported at 3:18 a.m. yesterday. It resulted the third alarm before it was placed under control at 4:20 a.m.

It was finally put out at 6:35 a.m., leading to clearing operations during which the charred bodies of the victims were found beneath the ruins of their homes.

Bustos said the fire broke out in a densely packed community of informal settlers on 9th Road.

It started at the second floor of a house owned by Basilio Acconcio and then went on to destroy around 500 houses which were mostly made of light materials.

At press time, no one has yet to be determined although based on the results of an initial investigation conducted by arson probers, the **house has not been fixed** to fire some time.

With no one watching over the house, it was turned into a hangout by young people living in the area, he added.

This was backed up by Ariel Joy Alcala, the mother of the children who were killed in the fire.

Ariel herself sustained severe burns and was taken to the intensive Medical Center where she remains confined.

She told the police that the house where the fire broke out was frequently used by teenagers as a place for hanging out or engaging in drinking sprees.

Because there was no electricity in the house, the young people used candles at night, she added.

According to her, when the fire broke out, she and her three **children were asleep.**

Survivor's tale

Roused by screams coming from their neighbors, she said she quickly grabbed her children to get them out of the house.

However, burning pieces of wood fell on them and some of those blocked the door, making it difficult for them to escape.

In the end, only she and her 4-year-old daughter survived by jumping out of the window.

Bustos estimated the damage to property at around ₱7 million.

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Hotel guest nabbed for robbery

By Mike Navallo

A MAN staying at a posh hotel in Makati City was arrested by the police on Saturday after he and a female accomplice were found to have stolen four laptop computers owned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Supt. Jaime Andres, Makati police officer in charge, identified the man as Mukred Ghaleb Bajaber, a guest of Makati Shangri-La hotel, where the UNHCR held a two-day conference on Friday.

According to Andres, hotel security personnel sought their assistance after a staffer of the UNHCR reported the loss of four laptop computers and other electronic gadgets on Saturday morning.

The thieves were identified after a check of the footage taken by the hotel's closed circuit television cameras showed them carrying out of the ballroom — the venue of the UNHCR conference — laptop computer bags.

When questioned, Bajaber admitted that he and the woman, whom he identified only as Missy, took the laptop computers and turned them over to another accomplice, James Hartbiano.

Investigators led by SPO2 Isaias Ortega immediately went to Hartbiano's house on Gumamela Street in Barangay 122, Pasay City, but failed to find him.

Authorities then sought the help of the barangay chair, Rolando Bonifacio, who was initially uncooperative. Later on, he apparently got in touch with Hartbiano and surrendered the stolen laptop computers to the police on Saturday evening.

"Hartbiano appears to have gone into hiding, fearing [his] arrest," Senior said, adding that they were also looking for the woman identified as Missy.

THREE-WAY COLLISION
A jaywan-Lucbay Luzon Tours bus slams into a column of the Cirilgua flyover on Edsa, leaving 18 people injured. The bus also collided with a passenger jeepney and a van.

TRO vs MMDA drive lapses

By Mike Navallo

JOY OFFICIAL of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday said that there was no more legal roadblock to the agency's campaign against illegal billboards after a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by a court lapsed last month.

In a radio interview, MMDA Assistant General Manager Emerson Carlos explained that the TRO issued by Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 133 Judge Elpidio Cada expired on Oct. 1.

Cada later inhibited himself from the case which was tentatively filed and is now being heard by Anija Ireneo Bughao of the Makati RTC Branch 132.

Carlos, however, stopped short of saying whether the MMDA would resume its drive against oversized and illegal billboards displayed on street and major thoroughfares, including Edsa.

"What we said was that the TRO had expired and no problem, any injunction [had been] issued [by the court]," Carlos said in a text message to the Inquirer.

When pressed whether the MMDA would resume its anti-billboard campaign, the official was noncommittal.

Earlier, the court asked the MMDA to begin processing its evidence on Nov. 21 and Dec. 9 before a resolution could be issued on whether or not there was a need to issue another TRO.

"In my mind, there is no reason to issue another one," the TRO has lapsed and there's nothing I can do about it. But the court cannot decide until the respondent has presented its evidence," the judge said.

He pointed out though that the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), the petitioner in the case, could still pursue other legal remedies to prevent the MMDA from pursuing its drive against illegal billboards.

In filing the case, OAAP claimed that the MMDA disregarded the property rights of its individual and corporate members when it demanded advertising materials posted in several areas in Metro Manila.

The unchallenged drive was launched after several oversized advertisements fell at the height of strong winds spawned by previous typhoons, causing either death or injury.

METRO BRIEFS

Woman, daughter hit by car in Mandaluyong

A 15-YEAR-OLD high school student may lose her leg after she was run over by a speeding car in Mandaluyong City early yesterday morning. Jasmin Mae Carballo and her mother Mildred were crossing the street to get to a jeep around Mayflor Circle in Barangay Plainview when a gray Honda Civic (UEF 852) ran hit them, Insp. Renato Ubalde, chief of Mandaluyong's traffic enforcement unit, said. The accident happened at around 6 a.m. in front of the Mandaluyong City Hall compound. Ubalde said that the mother, a 39-year-old city hall employee, fell to the ground, well away from the car's path but her daughter was run over by the vehicle. The driver of the car with no number, Alonzo Cacnapio, Jr., 31, was immediately arrested by the Mandaluyong traffic police unit. "The car was obviously [traveling fast] before it hit the two," Ubalde said over the phone. The victims were rushed to Mandaluyong Medical Center for treatment. "The mother was discharged from the hospital but the girl has been taken to Philippine General Hospital because her leg may be amputated," Ubalde said.

Rita Cahis

Man stabs neighbor dead in Manila

AFTER hosting a drink on Saturday night at the house of Melchor Carvalho in Malate's compound, Tondo, Manila, his neighbor Dennis Lucero stabbed him dead the following day. Credence, the victim's wife, told the Manila Police District homicide section yesterday that the two men had long-marked a grudge against each other. Case investigator PO2 Jose Gambito said that on Saturday night, Lucero threw a drink at the victim's house and then waited for him the following day. When Carvalho left his house at 6 a.m. on Sunday to open his wife's store, Lucero went after him and stabbed him four times. The victim then died on the spot as his attacker escaped.

Jayman T. Ganal

Driver killed, another wounded in shooting

MANILA policemen are looking for three men who shot and killed Gonzalo Santos, 61, a taxi driver, and wounded a pedicab driver, Rodolfo Matabilat, in Tondo, Manila on Sunday morning. Case investigator PO2 Bernardo Dayatbuck of the Manila Police District homicide section-Harvard Red before the shooting. Bartolome men looking for another person but when they failed to find him, they turned their ire on the victims who were just chatting nearby.

Jayman T. Ganal

DID YOU KNOW

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Law building is named after its first dean, George Arthur Malcolm, who was born on Nov. 1, 1881, in Michigan, USA. He went to the Philippines after he received his law degree and stayed in the country for 33 years. In 1917, he was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court. He left the country in 1939 and died in California on May 14, 1961.

Johairi Bondoc Inquirer Research

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Pope in Africa, slams graft, labels AIDS an ethical issue

DJEBAHL...Pope Benedict XVI on Saturday labeled AIDS as "ethical problem" and condemned corruption as he laid down a mission for his Church's future in Africa on his second visit to the continent.

Benedict signed off on a 1,05-page roadmap for the Roman Catholic Church in Africa as a homilie in the Benin city of Cotonou, a country of roughly 8 million Christians and 20 million more across the coast.

He signed the document on the second day of a three-day visit to Benin, a tolerant bastion of Catholicism. Inside the basilica, many dressed in white and wearing bright beads.

The document signed by Benedict—an apostolic exhortation called "The Pledge for Africa" containing conclusions from a synod of African bishops—includes pages on reconciliation and justice as its main message.

It calls for good governance, the abolition of the death penalty and democratic change, particularly in Africa's many young children, while describing AIDS as a mainly ethical problem that requires a medical response.

Changes in behavior are needed to combat the disease, including sexual abstinence and rejection of promiscuity and adultery.

"The problem of AIDS in particular clearly calls for a medical and a pharmaceutical response," it says. "This is not enough however. The problem goes deeper, above all, it is an ethical problem."

The Catholic Church's position on AIDS and the use of condoms has long been controversial and resolutely condemned, particularly by sub-Saharan Africa, home to nearly 70 percent of the world's HIV cases.

The Pope's comments on his first African trip to Cameroon and Angola in 2009 caused a global outcry when he suggested condom distribution aggravated the AIDS problem.

He has since appeared to ease that stance, saying in a book published last year that condom use is a responsible "in certain cases," mainly to reduce the risk of HIV infection.

Speaking at the basilica in Ouidah, Benedict addressed the themes of peace, reconciliation and justice contained in the roadmap.

POPE Benedict XVI is surrounded by children as he arrives at the St. Rita church in Cotonou during his pastoral visit to Benin on Nov. 19. The Pope will be in Benin for 3 days, from Nov. 18 to Nov. 20. —AFP

"There are important issues for the world in general, but they take on a particular urgency in Africa," said the 84-year-old Pope.

"The word has cruel the resonance, in parts of violence, the wars, the injustices and abuses of all sorts, new and old, which have marked this area."

In another speech earlier on Saturday Benedict denounced corruption, warning it could lead to violence spiraling and called on African leaders not to rob citizens of hope.

"At this time, there are too many scandals and injustices, too much corruption and greed, too many rivers and lies, too much violence which leads to misery and to revolt," he said at Benin's presidential palace.

"These ills certainly afflict your continent, but they also affect the rest of the world. Every people wishes to understand the political and economic choices which are made in its name. They perceive manipulations and their revenge is sometimes violent."

Addressing politicians, religious leaders and diplomats, he also said: "From this place, I launch an appeal to all political and economic leaders of African countries and the rest of the world.

"Do not despair your people of hope! Do not let them off issue their future by continuing their present!"

The audience for his speech in the economic capital Cotonou included wooden chiefs who heard the Pope call for more religious dialogue to take place without oppressive forms of beliefs. Catholicism and voodoo fetishes does not in Benin. AFP

Secretive North Korea opens up to cellphones

SEOUL...Investor North Korea is expected to register the one-millionth cellphone user on its new 3G network by the end of the year, barely four years after people were thrown into prison camps, or possibly even executed, for owning one.

Many of the users are in the capital of Pyongyang, home to the impoverished country's elite and powerful who have the cash to splash out for a device and the calling plan.

There has been an astronomical increase since only two years ago," said Michael Hu, a lawyer and business consultant based in the capital in the past seven years.

Two years ago, there were fewer than 75,000 users.

"All the residences in coffee shops have them, in restaurants, and see them. Left not everybody about business users.

They are more of them, and conversations are frequently interrupted by mobile calls."

The authoritarian government ended a ban on cellphones in 2008, adding a fourth mobile unit Egyptian company Orascom to build the 3G network in partnership with the government.

A report The month by the Brookes Institute for Security and Strategy in Washington DC said 30-50 per cellphones in Pyongyang, a city of around 3 million people who are starkly ranked by the state for residency permits.

"Especially for the younger generation, the 20s and 30s, as well as the middle-class middle, a cell phone is seen as a must, and open computers can no longer see them they without it," wrote Alexandre Mansourov in the report.

Calling their have fallen the price drop for users in the mind, reports say. And the introduction of the "Euro-pool"

Inside provides the isolated government with some much-needed hard foreign currency.

But you can't dial into or out of the country, and there is no Internet. The government still keeps a stranglehold on almost how to use the domestic user.

While the 3G network covers 94 percent of the population, it still only covers 14 percent of the countryside, according to Orascom, as technology is a joint venture with the government.

North Koreans who have invested in the South say the cost of buying a cellphone and the upcoming free, unless crossing costs a 3G device is out of question for most. Phones cost about $200 in the country where the average monthly income is about $13.

"The possession of cellphones was limited by class, but not many people have cellphones because they are just too expensive," said Kim Seongjin, 40, who defected to South in April. "Most consumers are satisfied with landlines or have."

Cheap illegal cellphones tapping into Chinese networks are not uncommon, but their range is limited to just the border blogs.

Analysts say the 3G network does not pose a threat to the government in the way cellphones have fueled uprisings around the Arab world this year.

Cellphones and the Internet have been used to rally a revolutionary wave of protests and civil wars that have brought down iron rulers from Hosni Mubarak to Moammar Gaddafi.

But analysts say that is unlikely to happen in North Korea, because the government media controls how what the poor know about the outside world and there is no immediate sense of revolt.

"In the long run, the growth of interaction between people is a problem for the regime, but it might take years, or even decades, before the shadow will be cast by an outbreak of internal dissent," said Andrei Lankov of Kookmin University in Seoul. Reuters

Grenades hit Baath Party building in Damascus

1st attack by insurgents in Syria capital; Arab League deadline expires with 17 more killed

DAMASCUS—At least two rocket-propelled grenades hit a main ruling Baath Party building in Damascus on Sunday, residents said, in the first insurgent attack reported inside the Syrian capital since an eight-month uprising began against President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian Free Army, comprised of army defectors and based in neighboring Turkey, claimed responsibility for the attack, just as Assad warned in an interview to crush the insurgency and pursue a crackdown on protests demanding his removal that has killed 3,500 people, by a UN count.

The attack could not be independently confirmed. The authorities have barred most independent journalists from entering the country.

It was the second hit on a high profile target in a week, underlining a growing challenge to Assad, who blames "armed terrorist acts" for the unrest, from a nascent insurgency alongside mostly peaceful protests, which have persisted despite the intensifying crackdown.

"The conflict will continue and the pressure to subjugate Syria will continue," Assad told Britain's Sunday Times newspaper. "Syria will not bow down."

Assad, who inherited power from his father in 2000, is a member of the Alawite minority community, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam that dominates the state, the army and security apparatus in the majority Sunni Muslim country of 23 million.

"The only way is to smash (the) the armed people, drain the armed gangs, prevent the entry of arms and weapons from neighboring countries, prevent sabotage and enforce law and order," he said.

In video footage on the newspaper's website, Assad said there would be elections in February or March when Syrians would vote for a parliament to create a new constitution and that would include provisions for a presidential ballot.

The Syrian Free Army said in a statement Sunday's attack came in response to the authorities' refusal to release tens of thousands of political prisoners and pull the military out of residential areas in accordance with a plan agreed between the Arab League and Damascus.

Assad definitely vowed to fight on and ill headed to an Arab League deadline for his government to stop its lethal crackdown on protests expired with 17 more people killed.

Among the dead from Saturday were four intelligence agents killed by gunmen who raided their car with grenades, and two mortar-shell strikes that left 11 people with regular troops in the central town of Shamsin, rights campaigners said.

The latest bloodletting added to the more than 3,500 killed since mid-March, and came just hours before the passing of the Arab League's deadline for the Arab League for Assad to end the crackdown or face sanctions.

With rebel troops inflicting mounting losses on the regular army, Turkey and the United States both raised the specter of civil war and Russia called for restraint.

But in an interview with London's Sunday Times, conducted before the Arab League deadline, Assad said his forces were "definitely" prepared to fight and die for Syria if faced with foreign intervention.

"This goes without saying and is an absolute," he said.

The president said he felt no cause for such drop of Syrian blood spilt but insisted that forces can must go after armed rebel gangs and enforce law and order. Reuters, AFP

As floods recede, fears for ancient Thai temples

AYUTTHAYA—The ruined temples of Ayutthaya have survived centuries of vanquished foes and rain, but experts fear some have been weakened by Thailand's devastating floods and may be at risk of collapse.

Unusually heavy monsoon rains caused a deluge that swept across much of central and northern Thailand from July, submerging more than 600 people dead and damaging millions of homes and livelihoods.

Ayutthaya, around 60 kilometers north of Bangkok, was in one of the worst-hit parts of the country and dramatic aerial images last month showed its temples as islands in a vast lake of floodwaters.

The structures upon weeks swamped by the murky waters and now fresh cracks have appeared in some of the pagodas that dominate the historic capital, a major tourist attraction and Unesco World Heritage site.

As the waters retreat, visitors have been warned not to climb into the structures in case they collapse.

Chaiyanad Sinsuwan, director of Ayutthaya Historical Park, estimated at least 600 million baht ($20 million) worth of damage had been done, but said the full consequences of the floods were not yet known.

"The monuments' construction was not designed to carry this much weight (of water). The floods have also softened the ground, making it unstable. Buildings could sink in, as the floods recede, they might collapse," he said.

The waters have receded from much of the center of the city, although some of the many temple compounds dotted around the historical park site are yet to fully dry out.

Fresh air on the southeast of the Chao Phraya, Pa Sak and Lopburi Rivers, the Ayutthaya monuments have long been susceptible to seasonal flooding.

The old city used to be protected by a network of canals that drained the water away, until a heritage regard for the United Nations cultural body Unesco, who asked not to be named.

"A lot of those canals have been filled over or have naturally become more shallow over time," she said. AFP

Thai volunteers take part in cleaning up a major road in Bangkok on Nov. 20. —

Russia attacks sentence of adoptee's US parents

MOSCOW—The Russian government reacted furiously on Saturday to an American judge's an unjustly lenient sentence in the case of a Pennsylvania couple who were originally charged with murder in the death of their 7-year-old son adopted from Russia.

The couple, Michael and Nanette Craver, were sentenced Friday to 4 months to 16 months in prison for involuntary manslaughter by Judge John E. Kennedy of the Court of Common Pleas in York, Pa. Because they had already spent nearly 10 months in jail, they will not serve any more time.

The Russian government was enraged. "The Cravers, who deserved the 7-year-old child to death, were released after staying a more year and a half under arrest," Alexander Lukashevich, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said Saturday in a statement, according to the Interfax news service. "The court verdict is unacceptably and flagrantly irresponsible."

Russian officials said they were considering their next investigation and might seek an arrest warrant for the couple.

The boy, Nathaniel Craver, died in 2008 from bleeding caused by severe head injuries. His adoptive parents said he had serious emotional and mental problems that had caused him to repeatedly hurt himself. They said the injury that caused his death occurred when he fell and hit his head on a wood stove.

But prosecutors authorities said the parents had abused and neglected the boy. Expert witnesses testified that he had fetal alcohol syndrome, but it was not clear whether that played any role in his death.

A jury acquitted the Cravers of murder, but convicted they were negligent and responsible for the death. They were convicted in September of involuntary manslaughter and faced penalty sentencing.

Seriously, is nothing that the Russian government can do to help the kid and believe that they punish a danger to the community or that a softer sentence would serve as an example for others, he also said that gave their ages—Michael Craver is 47 and Nanette Craver is 50—he did not believe they would become parents again. AFP/NYT

UN report: More heat waves, heavier rains, worse cyclones likely

KAMPALA—An increase in heat waves is almost certain, while heavier rainfall, more floods, stronger cyclones, landslides and more intense droughts are likely unless the globe this century as the Earth's climate warms, UN scientists said in a report.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) urged countries to make disaster management plans to adapt to the growing risk of extreme weather linked to human-induced climate change, in a report released in Uganda.

The report gives differing probabilities for weather events based on future greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, but the threat is that extreme weather is likely to increase and that the likely cause is humans.

The IPCC defines "likely" as a 66-100 percent probability, while "virtually certain" is 99-100 percent probability.

"It is virtually certain that increases in the frequency and magnitude of warm daily temperature extremes ... will occur in the 21st century on the global scale," the IPCC report said.

"It is very likely that the length, frequency and/or intensity of... heat waves will increase," it added.

"A 1-in-20 year hottest day is likely to become a 1-in-2 year event by the end of the 21st century in most regions," under one emissions scenario.

An exception is in very high latitudes, it said. Heat waves would likely get hotter by 1-3 degree Celsius by mid-21st century, and by 2-5C by late-21st century, depending on region and emissions scenario, it said.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries will meet in South Africa from Nov. 28 for climate talks with the most likely outcome modest steps towards a broader deal to cut greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change.

The IPCC report found human emissions have "likely" caused more extreme heat waves and sea surges, but is less sure about the link between man-made climate change and some floods.

"There is evidence that some extreme events have changed as a result of anthropogenic influences, including increases in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases," it said.

The risks posed by increasingly severe weather have been highlighted by a spate of disasters in recent years, such as flooding in Thailand and Australia, droughts in east Africa and Russia and hurricanes in the Caribbean.

The United Nations, the international Energy Agency and others say global pledges to curb emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases are not enough to prevent the planet's average temperature from rising by more than 2 degrees Celsius, a threshold scientists say risks an unstable climate in which weather extremes are common.

Global carbon emissions rose by a record amount last year, rebounding on the heels of recession.

The report did not address this, but recommended that action is taken now to shore up the defenses of vulnerable areas, including early warning systems, better land use planning, restoring ecosystems that act as buffers, enforcing building codes and weather-proofing infrastructure.

The report's message from this report is that there are a lot of smart things we can do now that reduce the risk of losses to disasters," coauthor Chris Field told Reuters.

"It is likely the frequency of heavy precipitation ... will increase in the 21st century over many areas," the report said, especially in "high latitudes and tropical regions." Reuters

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Scientists say faster-than-light finding holds

GENEVA—The chances have risen that tiny ones was wrong about a fundamental law of the universe.

Scientists at the world's biggest physics lab said on Friday they have ruled out one possible error that could have distorted their startling measurements that appeared to defy the pointing bedrock of their fight.

Many physicists reacted with skepticism in September when measurements by French and Italian researchers seemed to show subatomic neutrino particles breaking what Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein considered the ultimate speed barrier.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research said more precise testing has now confirmed the accuracy of at least one part of the experiment.

"Our key one was to repeat the measurement with very short beam pulses," the Geneva-based organization, known by its French acronym CERN, said in a statement.

The test allowed scientists to check if the starting time for the neutrinos was being measured correctly before they were fired. The laboratory sent the particles underground from Geneva on a path to Italy.

The results matched those from the previous tests, "ruling out one potential source of systematic error," said CERN. AP

The WORLD

Erlie Lorenze B. Glecco

Egypt protesters challenge generals

2 killed, nearly 700 hurt in street clashes before scheduled election

PHOTOS BY AFP

CAIRO—Clashes erupted between protesters and police in Cairo and two other Egyptian cities, killing two people and wounding hundreds in the biggest security challenge yet for the country's ruling generals days before scheduled elections.

In scenes reminiscent of the 18-day uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak from three decades of power in February, hundreds of youths chanted "The people want to topple the regime" as central Cairo on Saturday as they clashed towards riot police, who fired rubber bullets and tear gas.

Witnesses said the clashes appeared to have subsided early on Sunday.

During Saturday's clashes, protesters broke chunks of cement from pavements and hurled them at police, who lost control of Cairo landmark Tahrir Square twice in the day.

A Main Strike call around midnight at the huge Mogamaa state administration building overlooking Tahrir.

As police fired round after round of tear gas at protesters near the Interior Ministry close to Tahrir demonstrators held chants of hatred to block roads into the square.

And choking to fund power to an elected government, but support has ebbed over its use of military trials for civilians and suspicion that it wants to continue to wield the levers of power after a new government is sworn in.

A security official said on Saturday police had used lawful methods to deal with "troublemakers."

Protesters said they were using lawful police tactics to break up a peaceful sit-in.

The dusty stayed away from the fighting.

About 5,000 protesters had converged on Tahrir on Saturday afternoon when police tried to evict the remnants of a 30,000-strong demonstration a few earlier, mostly by Islamists demanding the departure of the military.

Buildings and tree cars in the square were set on fire, witnesses said.

A third vehicle close to the Arab League headquarters was also burned.

Police fired the protesters, most of whom were not Islamists, with batons and fired tear gas to regain control of Tahrir, only to retreat after night fell.

Protests erupted in other cities. About 800 people gathered in front of the security directorate in Egypt's second city Alexandria and chanted "Interior Ministry offends our things"

A witness heard repeated gunfire in the area. It was not clear whether the shots were live bullets. One person covered in blood was carried off on his friend on a motorcycle.

About 1,000 gathered outside a police station in the eastern city of Suez, throw rocks at it and tried to force their way in. Police fired tear gas and shot in the air.

Protesters in Suez tore down banners of former president of Mubarak's disbanded party who are running in the election.

Liberal groups are dismayed by the military trials of thousands of civilians and the army's failure to scrap a hated state-security law.

Islamists reading a strong showing in the early parliamentary respect the army council wants to curtail their influence and a maneuvering to stay in power from behind the scenes.

Analysts say Islamists could win 40 percent of parliament seats, with a big portion going to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Reuters

Emboldened by Obama, Burma maps out reforms

By Jason Szep

NUSA DUA, Indonesia—Burma (Myanmar) vowed on Saturday to address concerns raised by US President Barack Obama, ending his marking phase to make peace with ethnic rebels, gradually release all political prisoners and relax controls on freedom of expression.

But its government, fearing an Arab Spring style revolution if it moves too quickly, stressed reforms must be guided after nearly a half century of isolation and authoritarian rule that ended when the army handed power to March to a civilian parliament stacked with former generals.

Mr. Yudhoyono thanked them publicly. Burma was a powerful endorsement on Friday when Obama announced Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would visit the resource-rich country neighboring China, the highest-ranking American to do so since a 1962 military coup. Obama cited "flickers of progress."

That came a day after Southeast Asian leaders approved of Burma, also known as Burma, as chairman of its regional forum this in 2014, paving the way for a more influential role.

"We are trying our best to make an effective transition to democracy," Ko Ko Hlaing, chief political adviser to President Thein Sein, told Reuters in a wide-ranging, hour-long interview on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Bali, Indonesia.

The last he spoke of ill to significant Burma delegation members dreamy avoid the media at regional forums, quietly entering and leaving through auditorium backdoors. This year, officials stepped in halfway to take questions, sometimes with the flash of a smile, appearing to relish their renewed.

For many Burmese such as Ko Ko Hlaing, it feels overdue.

The 53-year-old former military officer once managed a team of government researchers. They studied international affairs and overhauled the world changed. Ever with the latest and used them as democracy took root in the Philippines and Indonesia, itself an outlaw nation state until the late 1990s.

Later, he became a radio and television personality before taking up his current post on the top adviser to the president, describing himself now as a "conscious reformer" who wants "dramatic but systematic and stable changes."

Some misconceptions, however, exist. Burma to go slower and a very small minority want no change at all, he said. "It is very difficult to change a mindset," he said. "But almost all of the people accept that changes are needed. The same is true, too."

Coming changes he said, will directly address Obama's concerns, including improving treatment of ethnic minorities and releasing remaining political prisoners.

Diplomats say there would have must be met for the United States and the European Union to end punitive sanctions that have isolated Burma and pushed it closer to China. They were imposed in response to rights abuses, including the killing of thousands of pro-democracy supporters.

Clinton told FOX News she would to see "a real political process and real elections."

The Burma official said that will happen. More political prisoners, he said, would be released once the government determines the 2,100 activists freed in an Oct. 12 amnesty had successfully returned to society and politics.

"If it is OK, then, will be a more immediate release of the next batch," he said.

The new may come soon when the National League for Democracy, the party of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, contests by-elections expected in late December. The party ended a boycott of Burma's political system on Friday by announcing it would register for the elections.

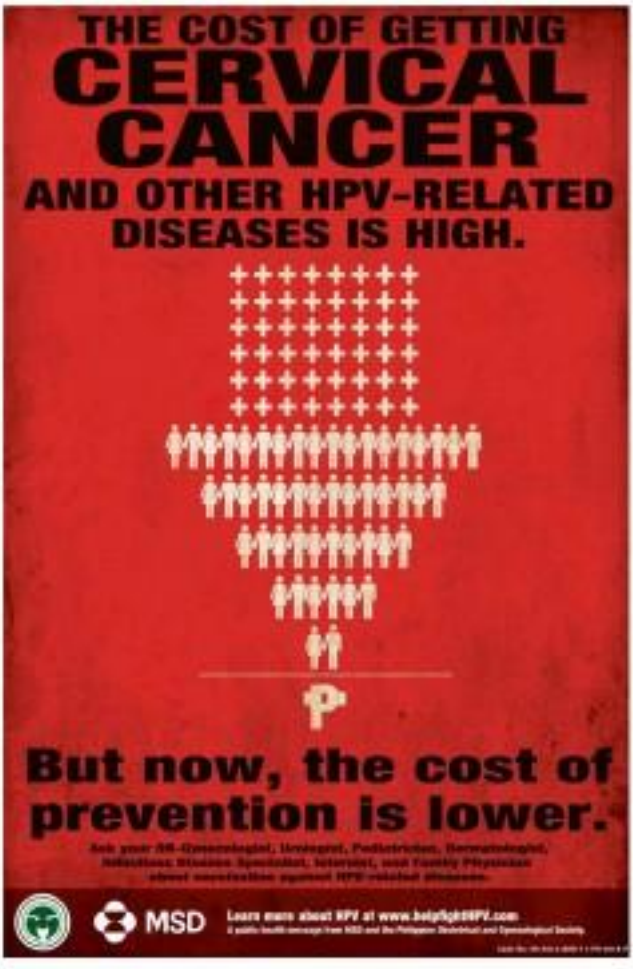
The party whose landslide electoral victory in 1990 was voided by the military, will give the elections a degree of credibility and possibly pave the way for more prisoners to be released if the vote goes smoothly.

Suu Kyi, herself released in 2010 from years of house arrest, has said about 400 activists remain behind bars.

"There is no concrete reason to delay the release of the political prisoners," said Ko Ko Hlaing.

But he said their predemocracy campaign made Burma confident in moving on that.

Reuters



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HOME

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Big City bets in command /A32

SPORTS

Editor Tobbie S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. Ochoa

■ Woods clinches American romp /A33

PHILIPPINO pinweight Josie Gabuco (left) connects with a left against Thi Trinh of Vietnam during their finals bout Saturday night. Gabuco won the gold.

More SEA Games stories on A34

3 golds fail to boost anemic PH campaign

Catalan, clouters, dragon boat crew win

By Roy Luarca in Palembang, Musang B. Castillo Jr./Inquirer

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Cycling's Alfie Catalan showed he's still the sprint king, and the national clouters and rowers displayed as Team Philippines amassed a last-ditch rally to climb out of the pits in the 26th Southeast Asian Games here Sunday.

Heralded by Indonesian Women Prize in the qualifiers, Catalan, an Asian champion, got back at his tormentor in the 9-lap of the 4,000-meter individual pursuit, clocking 4 minutes and 53.1 seconds at the Rawamangun Velodrome in Pulo Gebe to duplicate his 04-sample in the 2003 and 2007 SEA Games.

Nearly left at home due to lack of resources, the basketball team completed its clinch-route by pasting over the Indonesian, 243, to regain the title it lost to the Thais in Nakhon Ratchasima four years ago.

Over at Lake Cipule, the men's 22-crew dragon boat squad, a gold-medal long-shot, edged regional power Myanmar in the 1,000-meter events of the traditional boat race.

Paddling with rhythm and precision, the Filipinos discussed a spirited charge by the Burmese to clock 3 minutes and 50.95 seconds.

Myanmar settled for the silver in 3:54.12 with Thailand logging the bronze in 3:56.20.

"This gold (medal) is very special because we had only four months to prepare for the event," the 29-year-old Catalan told in Filipino.

Catalan redemptioned his title in the 2009 Laos SEA Games without a fight after the Philippine team was denied the chance to compete due to lack of clearance from the international federation.

The Philippines finished 1-3 in the event after 18-year-old Jolin Rose Mier raised 9:00.01 for the bronze, topping Malaysian Anis Mustafa of Malaysia.

In bowling Frederick Ong made the singlehanded finish of the men's Masters event Sunday night by topping the second block the team oil—with a total of 1,827 pinfalls.

As a bonus, the 12-man 300m rowing team, which was disqualified Saturday for allegedly fielding ineligible paddlers, won Sunday given the bronze after its protest was upheld.

The distance swept their five games at the Jakabaring Sport City stadium, including a 4-0 finishing of the Indonesian and a 6-2 demolition of the Thais in the elimination round.

Despite the victories, the Filipinos re-

| BOXERS A34

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Tigers, Archers bring rivalry to PCCL caging today

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas hopes to bring its unexpectedly solid test to the UAAP to the Siweet 16 of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League today against a resurgent La Salle squad in the PCCL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Tigers, semifinalists in the last UAAP season, take the floor at 4 p.m. against the Archers who are now being handled by coach Gee Abanilla with multivitiated PBA mentor Ang Ubaldo as consultant.

Jose Rizal University, also a Final Four qualifier in the NCAA, clashes early Siniloan University in the first of the knockout doubleheader at 2 p.m.

"The format of the tournament is not to our favor because we're playing a fresh team while we've already played three games," said NU coach Eric Altamirano.

"We're trying to save our legs, so hopefully we'll have some more this Monday."

The Archers and the Bulldogs, who both missed out on the UAAP Final Four this year, took a longer route to reach the stepladder stage of the tournament (one namore).

Both topped the Metro Manila quali-fiers, before clinching another victory at the start of the Siweet 16 round over the weekend.

Rodney Torres and Jeoffrey Mendoza led the Archers past South Luzon Rival, regional champion University of Batangas Brahmans, 78-53, in the Siweet 16 opener last Saturday.

The Bulldogs also routed North-Central Luzon titlist University of the Northern Philippines, 96-91, in the other match where Cameroonian Emmanuel Mbe topscored with 23 points.

Abanilla said the Archers are definitely banking for a tough encounter with the Tigers, who are led by Cameroonian reserve Karim Abdul and Jeric Teng.

"It will be a good gauge of how far we are right now," said Abanilla. "As I've said, we've been together for just 12 days and hopefully we'll improve some more."

Big City bets in command

Track aces Moreno, Ynot Jra nail Milo golden trebles

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Long-distance ace John Rey Moreno and Perlita Ynot Jra wreaked to their third victories in athletics as National Capital Region showed how a three-month debriefing champion Nueyen in the Third National Milo Little Olympics at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center here.

The 16-year-old Moreno topped the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10 minutes and 01.11 seconds, fending a twenty-man storm on the heels of his golden feats in the 1,500-m (4:18.63) and 5,000-m (17:23.17) runs in the secondary boys division last Saturday.

"I'm so happy because my hard work paid off," Moreno said in Filipino.

The Immaculate Concep-tion Academy standout's bid for a fourth gold was doubted, though, when the NCR 4x100m relay squad was relegated to second by the Visayas quartet.

Ynot Jra, who ruled the secondary girls' long jump event on Saturday, dominated the triple jump (33.24 metres) and provided ample support as the NCR team topped the 4x400-m relay in 4:12.71, way ahead of Visaya (4:25.38) and Mindanao (4:28.63).

Already the queen of the 800m run in the secondary class, Rosiana Chua notched another gold to the 400m hurdles while Marian Audrey Rivas clinched the high jump crown with a 1.40m effort and Aranlen Iele recorded 30.03 m to clinch the javelin throw title for NCR, which also got another top finish in triple jump through John Lumawa (13.28m).

Big City athletes also flexed their muscles in the boys' and girls' divisions, with Ir. Jude's Joshua Ching scoring victories in the 100m and 200m backstroke and 400m medley relays.

Visayas proved its bid for a third straight overall crown by running up with a fair share of the golden harvest in the secondary boys' athletics contest.

Ray Villahermosa topped the 400m hurdles (58.77 seconds) and the 4000-m run (52.80).

Cebuano Raul Peter Jr. won the secondary boys' 200m in 22.80 seconds while Modoc Aspic completed a golden double, ruling the 200m (26.32 seconds) and 400m runs (1:01.07).

University of Cebu's Jeffrey Joy Dagulan also topped the discus throw (20.34 m) for the Visayas, which swept the medallist events.

NCR's John Moreno (right) of NCR powers to victory in the 3,000-m steeplechase of the Milo National Little Olympics in Lingayen.

Big Chill faces Café France, eyes lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

NEC Chill aims to join elite Fruga Jeans on top when it tangles with Cafe France in-day in the PBA 3-League Aspirants Cup at the Trinity University of Asia gym.

Coach Aurino Ormaque thinks his Super Chargers have a chance to shine in the PBA D-League Aspirants' Cup.

The Super Chargers and the Bakers collide at 2 p.m. with Dynamyte establishes clear his boast have enough motivation to pull through.

"We still have a long way to go," he said. "But playing for scalpers at the top with Fruga, plus the fact that this is our host court, are certainly reasons enough to keep us hungry."

Cebuano Shaffer and Bindweeni, both cousin veteran of Fruga's Jones, tangle at 4 p.m.

The Gems and the Elite share third at 3-1 after absorbing their first loss in four matches against the Asian Makers.

Coach Edgar Macaraya said he expects a better defensive effort from his Bakers, who rallied from 10-points down to trip Cebu, 78-73, for their first triumph in four games.

"Now they know how to win. Before they are more just happy to be able to lead," said Macaraya, who's banking on Mac Montilla and Arif Mercan.

The Super Chargers, hoping on Jessie Collado and Alex Walker, are also coming off a thrilling 82-81 escape over Club Enthusiast.

"It was a good test of character for us," said Ormaque.

Global eleven ousts 2nd-ranked Army

By Cedrik F. Topaz

DEFENDING champion Global FC announced its old, sudden form in blank-strong 3-0, Saturday night and reach the quarterfinals of the United Football League at the University of Diliman pitch.

Homebox World Cup veteran Jerrick Hoffer scored twice to win the second half, after Ian Araneta opened the scoring for Global, which struggled in the group stage.

Global, which appeared into the knockout stage as one of the two wild cards, will take on the winner between Batangas and Ilocos for a place in the semifinals.

Stallions FC also booked its place in the last eight with a comfortable 2-1 win over Diliman Heavy Lion FC in the first game.

Lee Jun-young and Yhon Bunga scored for Stallions, who will take on either top seed Loyola Meralco Sparks or Stallion Cimbon United.

Bunga, one of five Batangas playing for Stallions, equalized in the 22nd minute, before the Stallions boss Bunga gave them the lead a minute into first half injury time.

Army came into the game as the No. 2 seed. But they ventured into a supernatural Global side handled by Australian coach Graeme MacKinnon.

Global took the lead 25 minutes into the game when FLOAT-ING Hoffer connected a long free kick from Ya Rashidi into the goal.

Jeff Christensen made his debut for Global and the 48-thirties winger, who starred in the South-east Asian Games, made an instant impact with his playmaking, setting up the second goal for Hoffer in the 56th minute.

Subano grabbed his second in the 89th, chipping past Ishmael Sacapano after a quick scram that caught the Army napping.

Yd Spanish striker Angel Aldeguer, still starring a seven-footer on his ankle, played the last 11 minutes and nearly scored with a header off a corner kick.

Let's get back in the race

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

CHECK out how "me-apesa" will be a favorite cliché as we assess the country's performance in the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

After being mired in sixth place for the last few days in the medal tally and tremendous by countries that used to trail behind us, pundits will say our 6th uniforms and an overhaul of the country's sports management.

Officials will either take the blame or gain an undeserving flogger to help soothe some of the pain of our continued drop in the medal count.

There will be the all-too-familiar spin that the athletes gave their all for the country and that we should be proud of their collective efforts. Filipinos are proud of sportsmen who represent them but cannot understand the country's inability to win even a regional championship or dropping so low in class.

* * *

We have succumbed to this game that we should not merely look at the number of gold medals won and how the stars for the top spot is shaping up. However, this medal race is just too difficult to ignore.

Many of our performances do not entertain us as much as we would like and it is hard to imagine how some athletes will prepare to bigger regional or world competitions if they cannot even cause a ripple at this level.

* * *

While there are a few bright spots like the basketball campaign, our boxers and billiards players picking up gold medals and our softball and baseball squads dominating the opposition, we have been hit again in medal-rich disciplines that are the bases of the dominance of our countries in the race.

Swimming, which chipped in four golds in Laos, could not hit pay dirt and came home at least an ounce of the 30 gold medals at stake.

The Incheon's Men Authority Rowe expected last Tuesday that the absence of star lifeguard Medina, who opted to pursue a college degree, took its toll. A young and raw team fared gold-rated veterans from the region.

Meanwhile, athletics could only take two gold medals from the 42 that were contested.

* * *

Let's not strue too be hard and just consider that if we could only get a dozen of the 42 gold medals in swimming and athletics, we could surely improve our spot in the medal count.

Giving manager suppers as excuse was disappointing, though the finishing of better good and track facilities for rowing and canoeing/kayaking. We can also need to increase funding and exposure.

All of these, of course, come at a very steep price, but we must pay for it if we are to win more gold medals.

* * *

Perhaps officials have grown weary of these too sports because of the nagging issues that have besieged them.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok has had his skirmishes with the Philippine Olympic Committee while swimming has been rocked by a leadership dispute.

Addressing these issues and concerns rather than sidestepping them will help improve the future performances of swimmers and track and field athletes.

Let's hope the spots we open to what ails Philippine sports but initiate concrete steps to improve our 8th Games performances beginning with embossing and athletics.

* * *

In this edition, the only country we have consistently been ahead of has been Laos. Memories has made a sensational surge to second place. Singapore has already overtaken us after being in the behind in the 1990s.

Let's get back into the race before we stumble out of it completely.

Lourdes, SHS pace SBP-Passerelle caging

DEFENDING national Passerelle champion Sacred Heart School (SHS)-Ateneo de Cebu booted Xavier, 69-58, in a rematch of last year's finals in the first Central Visayas Passerelle Team Basketball Championships yesterday.

Xavier controlled the tempo early in the game until the Magis surged in a 20-12 lead and never looked back.

Jared Lim tried to rally Xavier to a 40-31 lead in the third period, but the Celtanians recovered and increased the advantage to 59-44 going into the fourth quarter.

In the other Passerelle game, Holy Child School-Ormoc topped Cauayan National College-Pampanga, 56-47, to gain a share of the lead with SHS.

Meanwhile, Lourdes Mandaluyong smothered Ateneo de Davao, 71-27, to kick off its drive in the Small Basketball Philippines (SBP)-division.

Driving his crippled car occasionally against the world's finest drivers, Pastor notched last step up to 10th spot at the end of the race.

"[Team's] Manny experience ... still surely give him a good account in next year's races," Tom Hunt, head of the Philippine Formula Asia Sports, said of his son, whose stint was backed by Stronghold Cement, Bonanza Farm Fertilizer, Beverly Hotels Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Pastor 10th in Macau GP car race

RACED Pastor prepares for the final race as 19th on the grid.

HUNDRED Portland "Tom" Pastor finished 10th in a field of 36 drivers in the 58th Macau Grand Prix race on race Saturday in the former Portuguese enclave.

Pastor, eighth on the grid in the qualifying race, started in 19th spot for the final race after his front end was suspension were damaged in a collision.

Driving his crippled car occasionally against the world's finest drivers, Pastor notched last step up to 10th spot at the end of the race.

"[Team's] Manny experience ... still surely give him a good account in next year's races," Tom Hunt, head of the Philippine Formula Asia Sports, said of his son, whose stint was backed by Stronghold Cement, Bonanza Farm Fertilizer, Beverly Hotels Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission.

18th anniversary derby at Elorde arena tonite

EQUITY 50 ac century bank is out for the championship of the 18th dbe-anniversary 4-cock derby at 6 p.m. tonight at the Elorde Cockpit Stadium on Seoul Road, Pembaroa.

Promoted by businessman-sportsman Johnny Hosaka, the derby offers a total purse of P300,000 for a minimum bet of P5,000.

The winning handler and gaffer will receive P150,000 and P20,000 respectively.

Weight limit is from 1.4 kilograms to 2.4 kg.

The venue management said giveaways will be given out to early patrons.

Tabuena ties for 29th; Juvic boosts OOM lead

TABUENA

JOHOR BAHRU, Malaysia—Rookie Miguel Tabuena emerged as the top Filipino finisher, while Juvic Pagunsan narrowed his Asian Tour Order of Merit (OOM) lead after the rookies shortened Iskandar Johor Open won by rising star Jeeot Lalmir of the Netherlands Sunday.

Tabuena, the 27-year-old Ateneo star who turned pro last February, shot a closing 2-under-par 68 to finish in a tournament-tying tie for 29th place with a 4-under total of 287, a stroke ahead of Pagunsan, who managed just a 73 to wind up in a big logjam for 39th position.

With another rounder of 71-67, Tabuena, a career best fourth in Tiburon two months ago, picked up $10,333 to boost his income in his last two tournaments to $18,333. He moved up to No. 62 in the OOM with total earnings of $58,447, just a scrap off the top 60 list who will keep their Asian Tour card next season.

Pagunsan, who matched Tabuena's scores in the first two rounds, netted $11,000 to boost his total take in the OOM to $722,298.

The runner-up to the $6-million freebies Singapore Open last week now leads second-placer SSP Chowrasia of India by close to $500,000, going to the last tournament in the Asian Tour—the $2.75-million OBG Hong Kong Open set Dec. 1 to 4, and the $1-million Thailand Golf Championship on Dec. 15 to 18.

Mars Pacay carded a third straight 70 to finish at 3-under 285 worth $6,300, while Elmer Salvador settled for $5,460 after closing with a 71 for 288.

Lalmir shot a 65 to edge Daniel Chopra of Sweden by one shot in the event unsanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour that was reduced to 54 holes due to adverse weather in the last three days.

"Well, it is always tough to get your first Tour win, and you'll always believe those you'll get a good one," said the 23-year-old, who won $103,200 with a winning total of 13-under-par 200.

"I'm really relieved to finally win, and looking for the next one."

Chopra narrowly missed his 324-foot single putt on the last hole to force a play-off and settled for second with a final round 70 at the 6,806-yard Golf and Country Club.

Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand, a three-time Asian Tour number one; Claudio Pi of Korea; Gho Tapar of India; and Bangladeshi duffer Siddikur ended their tournaments in the top tenies in tied 15th place.

Asian Tour News

TIGER Woods hits an approach shot to the 18th green during the Presidents Cup golf tournament in Melbourne.

PRESIDENTS CUP

Woods clinches American romp

MELBOURNE—Tiger Woods found his putting groove to clinch the Presidents Cup for the United States, who held off a stiff challenge by the Internationals at Royal Melbourne Golf Club on Sunday.

The 14-time major champion overhead on birdie to a crushing 19½ win over Australia's Aaron Baddeley to hand the Americans their fourth straight trophy with a total of 19 points to 15.

"It does feel good. I was hoping it wouldn't come down to my point," Woods said in a generally interview after clinching the draw on the 18th with a sublime bunker shot that landed a foot from the pin. "We didn't get off to a good start really. But overall to get it out point."

Woods' victory was a repeat of 2009, when the feature world number one sealed the winning putt against South Korea's YE Yang at the Harbour Town Golf Links. The Internationals 15-9 going into the final day in was birdied. Melbourne, the US needed only five wins from the singles matches but were unable to stock hard.

The Internationals' young Majesty dropped out of the blocks, with Japan's Ryo Ishikawa (-3) and seven-time Ryder Ryder before South African Charl Schwartzel edged Dustin Johnson 2&1. Kim Kyung-tae beat Webb Simpson 3 up, and Australia's Geoff Ogilvy finished strongly with a 2-up win over Bill Haas.

Master Mahan and Nick Watney rounded the U.S. ship, however, before the old hands took over. Daniel Tiger blasted Australian Robert Allenby 7&5 to leave the US needing only two points to win, before Jim Furyk rolled to a four-foot putt to beat South African Ernie Els 4&3.

"I knew our guys would settle down," said Couples, who won his second straight Cup story counterpart Greg Norman. "We had some phenomenal scoring in what I think are very tough conditions. But the guys, we are different. They teamed up extremely well."

Woods credited team mate and renowned putting wizard Steve Stricker for helping him find his touch on the greens having not been able to buy a putt through out the year weekend. The 35-time-old finished with a 2-1 record for the tournament having saved his best for last.

Australia's Adam Scott earlier beat Phil Mickelson 2&1 but Stricker finished the tournament on a winning note for the US edging Yang 1&1 in the final match.

"The guys stepped up and we played very well as a team, and I'm proud of them," said Norman. "My team can hold their heads up extremely high." Reuters

PBB: Peach rallies, topples Alcano

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GREAT Britain's Daryl "The Dolphin" Peach rallied from a 2-7 deficit and overcame Ronnie Alcano, 9-7, in their Philippine Nightmare Billiards (PNB) Pure-Oil Series Saturday night at the Pagcor Airport Casino in Pasay City.

Peach, the 2007 World 9-ball champion, pocketed the $5,000 (about P217,000) winner's purse in the showdown against the Hispanoamerican world titlist, who won cold-to-win bonus in both of the house and opponent.

"He's (Alcano) a great player and (I) always tough playing against him," said Peach. "I was so nervous when he took a 7-2 lead, but I decided to calm down and just take it one rack at a time."

Peach explained the winner's break format in the 18-ball, race-to-9 duel by hitting the last seven racks.

"I was lucky to be the one who broke, but suddenly my luck ran out," said Alcano in Filipino. He went home with $2,500.

Alcano, the 2008 9-ball And 2007 8-ball world champion, got his chance at the table in the 13th rack at 7-all when Peach scratched. But his fourth was gone and he failed to run it out, paving the way for the Briton to stock the ball en route to the win.

"I guess it wasn't my day," added the 39-year-old Alcano, who beat Peach during the 2007 World 8-ball Championships held at the United Arab Emirates.

It was the third straight defeat to the Filipino ace masters in the weekly showdown after Asteant Staff Sergeant doubled World No. 1 Dennis "Bulbasaur" Orcollo and Earl "Cash" Strickland in previous matches.

Peach, who earns his world ranking points Gregorio Gregorio, the Apocrito Gridiron, will try his luck against another Filipino great, Ronnie world 8-ball champ Francisco "Django" Bustamante, on Dec 26.

Peach had previously beaten Alcano in the 2006 International Pool Tour in Las Vegas and 2007 World Pool Championships in Manila.

The event was a joint undertaking of Bilyar Sports World and BOMBOBO Corp. and held in cooperation with Airport Casino Filipino, Casino Isetted System, Silmeo Amplifiers, Bonar Theater Systems, Midnight Life OB, Diamond Billiard Felts, Bitman Sports Bar, Liday, Golden Lord Restaurants, Bagay Promotions, and Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines.

Other PBB matches will pit Yang Ching Shun of Chinese Taipei vs Luc Vieu Gotrera on Dec. 3, Yang vs Orcollo on Dec. 10, Chang Jung Lin of Chinese Taipei vs Roberto Gomez on Dec. 17, Chang vs Alcano on Dec. 26, and Wu Chia Ching of China vs Efren "Bata" Reyes on Dec 30.

The matches will be shown over Solar Sports, Sky Cable and Destiny.

PEACH shows coach Ian at while Alcano looks on.

RUNNERS-UP Members of the Ateneo High School football team hold their trophies after placing second behind Ateneo de la Grotto Eldridges of the 1st Singa Cup held Nov. 7 to 11 in Singapore. The team is composed of coaches JP Merida and Gregorio Madrona and players Paolo Ambrosio, Miguel Bautista, Paolo Bilbao, Paolo Buenaventura, Gino Clarino, Eric Figueroa, Alfred Francisco, Daniel de Jesus, Jan Montemayor, Marcus Nicolas, JP Orosimo, Basilio Pelaez, Julius Rocas, Teffen Samaniego, and Rain Uytsevens.

Close to 87,000 joins Pasig run

By Cedrik P. Tapay

UNITED by a noble cause, close to 87,000 runners descend up and around the "11.26.2011 Run For the Pasig River" yesterday morning into the biggest footrace in the country this year.

Though the participants failed to match last year's record of 115,000, Gina Lopez, the prime mover of the advocacy run, expressed delight over the turnout, saying it shows "the presence of value over P50pieces) are in a people."

"The fact that we have people here coming together for a cause is an achievement," Lopez told the participants. "It shows who we are as a people. The numbers don't matter."

The run aims to raise funds for the rehabilitation and cleanup of the Pasig River and its surrounding waterways.

Manchot Olivas of the 600-CBS Foundation said 120,000 runners registered for this year's event, compared to 115,000 last year. Olivas said they hope to raise P1B million this year.

"We're going to play funny on kids next year," said Olivas, adding that the race will be held every Eden next year. "If you get closer, to join you also don't have to participate."

The country's top businessmen and executives, including ABS-CBN Corporation chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III and Ayala Corporation president Fernando Zobel de Ayala, and actor Piolo Pascual participated in the 21K race, which covered a route that passed through Paseo de Roxas where last year's rehabilitation of Pasig River was made.

Orchard Founders Cup offers P5M in prizes

THE ORCHARD Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite enters the bar again with its 15th Founders Cup member-guest tournament this week clubbing an assortment of prizes like premium cars, golf gear and merchandise prizes totaling at least P5 million.

Set Nov. 24 to 27, a full-packed field of 600 participants is entered in the tourney presented by Casas Gala A 2012 Mercedes-Benz C180 Classic and Hyundai Tucson Theta II GLS 2WD A/T car at stake as hole-in-one prizes at the Player and Palmer courses of Orchard, respectively.

The same cars are on offer to a separate raffle where paid tickets of no more than P10,000 are eligible to win.

The tournament is also look forward to winning two PAL Business class tickets to the US West Coast and Atrium Affiliate economy tickets for two to the West Coast, New York or London and other cities from.

Major sponsors are PLDT, Philippine Airlines, Bonus de Oro TIDA/CLG Acquiring, Hitachi, Mr. Lucio Rocky Kalaw-Jr. Global Corporation, GMC, Mercedes-Benz and Hyundai Dasmariñas. Premium hole sponsors are Air21, Atrium Airlines, Security Bank, Orchard Property and The Turf Company, while among the hole sponsors are Ayala Land, Inchcape, Gray Globe Telecom, ICTSI, Hurley's Pizza and Pajero.

Thais rule ICTSI/ITF women's tourney

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP seed Luksika Kumkhum rolled back Olivia Ding, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, yesterday to complete Thailand's domination of the ICTSI/ITF Women's Classic Week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Her victory in the $15,000 event came a day after she and Peangtarn Plipuech lost the women's doubles title to compatriots Napatsakorn Sankaew and Varatchaya Wongteanchai, 6-3, 3-6 [10-6].

Peangtarn makes captured the Week 1 singles title after teaming up with Luksika to obtain the women's doubles crown.

The top local rookie, Anne Clarice Patrimonio, Monica Jude Gopadoza, Jennifer Nguyen Mathis, Joe Tangcoy and Marinel Rodes , never made it past the second round.

'Bakbakan' semis kicks off at Big Dome

DEMI-final 40 Fights will highlight today's "HPGB Sintorial Bakbakan 11-Ahag Derby" semifinal round starting at 3 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

As of press time, 4,000 tickets were listed with the two-town meeting's quadrennial elimination rounds. Nov. 24 (Saturday), Nov. 24 Dan Boles Club-seven in Laguna, and Nov. 25 (Pasay City Cockpit).

Other semis venues today are San Jose Village Cockpit and Bacolor Cockpit. The elimination rounds schedule for tertries with 5, 5.5 and 6 points are five 30 (Bridged, Dec. 1 (Saturday), Nov. 24 Dan Boles Club-seven in Laguna, and Nov. 25 (Pasay City Cockpit).

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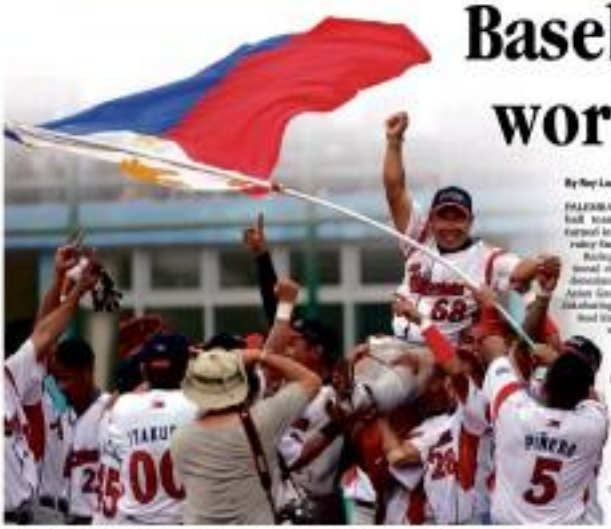
Baseball proves worth with win



TEAM captain Ruben Angeles rides the shoulders of his victorious teammates after the win over Indonesia. JOVEN APOLINAR

By Ray Laurea

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—The baseball team they nearly left behind turned in a golden performance on a rainy Sunday here.

Racing to prove their worth, the National's steamers repeated over the Indonesians, 2-0, to regain the Southeast Asian Games crown in the wet, slushy Jakabaring Sport City diamond.

Reel Empecis and Arnaldo Perez took turns to drive in the two runs that gave the Filipinos a sweep of the event they last captured in the 2005 SEA Games back home.

Empecis broke the scoreless deadlock in the sixth inning by sending home Ruben Angeles, who singled in first and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Joseph Dellosa.

Perez then drove home Dellosa from second in the eighth.

In the qualifying round, the Filipinos also blanked the Indonesians, 4-0, trounced the defending champion Thais, 9-2, and routed the Vietnamese and Malaysians by similar 10-0 scores.

Pitcher Darwin dela Calzada picked up the victory in a no-relief job.

"We're very, very happy," said Angeles, the 44-year-old team captain, in Filipino.

"We feel vindicated. Despite the many controversies and criticisms that we're aging, we delivered for the country in these Games."

The closures were only given the go-signal to play by the Philippine Olympic Committee late last month after boxer-turned-sports functionary Jeanne Lazaro, the guarantor of payment for their participation.

Originally scheduled in the morning, the championship game was moved to the afternoon and had to be stopped twice due to a heavy downpour that inundated the field and soaked the players.

Thailand served the baseball crown from the Philippines in 2007 in Nakhon Ratchasima.

The Thais also wanted the Filipinos in the 2008 Doha Asian Games, replacing for seven runs in the ninth inning en route to an 8-1 triumph.

Stunning win by long shot dragon boat squad

By Musong R. Castillo

BIDAR, Sitka Java—The Philippine dragon boat squad, a gold-medal long shot, surprised superstitions by topping regional power Myanmar for a breakthrough victory Sunday in the 26th Southeast Asian Games' traditional boat race in Lake Cijoda here.

The 22-man Filipino crew held off a spirited charge by the Burmese to win the 1,000-meter event, clocking 200-minute and 33.05 seconds. Myanmar timed 1:54.12 with Thailand bagging the bronze in 1:56.20.

"This (victory) is overwhelming because it more than exceeded our expectations," Jomar Go, the country's Kayak Association secretary general, said. "This is sweet vindication for those athletes who have worked so hard despite the pressure that had to face back home."

The Filipinos were given little chance of winning here after the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation was stripped of the medals of the team that won four golds and two silvers in the recent world championship due to a dispute with the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The men's 10-man crew also salvaged a silver in the 500m after losing 2:16.30, nearly two seconds behind Myanmar (Indonesia finished in the rowers in 2:16.8.

The women's team, though, fell a tad short and settled for fourth in the 500m, 12-crew finals in 2:29.4. Indonesia bagged the bronze in 2:28.62 with Myanmar again prevailing in 2:26.8 and Thailand the silver in 2:28.5.

The Filipino contingent has so far won one gold, a silver and two bronze medals after the third-place finish in the men's 1,000m 22-crew was upheld by the appeals jury Sunday morning.

Suarez, Galvan fight for golds versus improved Indonesians

By Recah Trinidad

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—With two gold medals won on Saturday, and two more up for grabs Monday, the head of the Philippine boxing delegation here said the Filipino fighters are well on track, with the competitions nearing to an end.

Lightweight Chatchai Butdee managed himself to subdue the tall, heavier Thai bantamweight Arden Stephen, a qualifier to the London Olympics, Saturday and arranged a bout for the gold with Brandon Gavilanes of Indonesia in today's boxing finals.

After bouts, it will be the turn of light welterweight Dennis Galvan to go for the gold against another Indonesian, Alfian Rachdia, in the concluding fight for the Team Philippine boxing team, which won a total of five gold medals (three by the women, two by the men) to place second overall behind powerhouse Thailand in the 2009 Laos Games.

The chances to replicate that feat two years ago was dashed when Asian Games flyweight gold medalist Rey Saludar was upset by welterweight John Brita, a wily Indonesian of Papuan stock, who came out of nowhere to repeatedly score the top Philippine hope.

"We are well on track," said Ed Picson, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines executive director, who vehemently protested the decision of an Indian referee that penalized light bantamweight Nonito Donaire for fouling with an open glove after the bad clearly connected with a left cross against Thailand's Pornsukai Laopeera.

The controversial call, made after the referee had tilted a mandatory eight-count on the Thai, visibly turning the momentum and caused the talented Donaire the bout and a chance to go for the gold.

"Our boxers showed marked improvement in skill, conditioning and attitude, but our neighbors have also not been standing still," Picson said in elections junior colt pinweight Josie Gabuco and light flyweight Alice Kate Aparri, a pair of scrawly Pinays who had the round measuring with their sharp and classy gold-medal bouts on Saturday.

The overall boxing championship has been conceded to Thailand since the Philippines has suddenly found a strong new rival for second overall in host Indonesia.

Loaders Olympics light flyweight qualifier Mark Anthony Barriga bested to Indonesian Hendrawan Dwiantara in the Filipinos' first bout before Brita upset the over-eager Saludar, a favorite to make the flyweight gold here, in their semi-final encounter Saturday.

The two PH-Indonesia bouts in today's finals should be able to decide subtleties as over the Philippine hosting team in this biennial Games is locked well on track.

GOLDEN GIRL. Alice Aparri (r) the juvenile star for women's light flyweight class in boxing. JOVEN APOLINAR

At least a silver for WFM Jose; Wesley beaten

By Ray Laurea

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Two three-time national title Woman Fide Master Rely Vien Jose drew with Malaysian Camille Bi Johni late Saturday and entered herself of at least the silver medal in standard chess in the 26th Southeast Asian Games at the Swarna Dwipa Hotel here.

Highly rated Grandmaster Wesley So, however, bowed to Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto, the reigning Asian Zone 3.3 champion, and virtually blew his title chances in the men's event.

The 22-year-old Jose, a former swimmer of De Lasalle University, climbed to 2.5 points after three games and needs only to draw with Vietnamese Nhuan International Master Nguyen Thi Mai Hang in the fourth and final round Sunday night to bag the title in the single-round robin competition.

Indonesian Woman Grandmaster Irine Sukandar Sukandar, formerly Jose in the second round, downed Isarun Srijirawong of Thailand to rise to 3.5 points in the company of Nguyen.

Megaranto, whom So has beaten many times in the past, including a come-on-one-month in Jakarta, improved his record to 3.0 points and needs only to draw his last two games to bag the gold.

Granting that So, with 2.0 points, sweeps his last games and also finishes with 4.0 points, Megaranto will still emerge champion by virtue of the better-over-the-other rule.

Tied with So were GM Cao Sang of Vietnam and FM Wynn Zin Naing of Myanmar.

In all try to compensate when he competes in blitz play with GM Mark Paragua on Monday.

In men's rapid play Gibi Oliver Barbon and Bagulbo "Jury" Antonio Jr. fell out of contention for the gold with 4.0 points each after seven rounds. Yin-cumbent GM Jo Quang Linh led with 6.0 points with two rounds to go.

WIM Catherine Perena and WFM Cherry Ann Wilds also bowed out of contention for the women's rapid gold.

The Filipino lasses outclassed two others, though GM John Paul Gomez to the blindfold event and the mixed standard team of Barbon and Perena.

3 golds fail to lift anemic PH campaign

Frontpage A1

ranked round at ninth place in the overall tally with a total haul of 27 golds, 41 silvers and 83 bronzes as of 9 p.m. (7 p.m. in Manila).

With two days of full-blast action left, the Indonesians are assured of the overall championship with a gold-silver-bronze horde of 161-118-118.

The Thais are well-entrenched at second (96-75-100), followed by Vietnam (80-80-84), Malaysia (51-49-66) and Singapore (48-42-71).

In the boxing semifinals last Saturday, lightweight Charly Suarez ousted Thai Jerdee Saphom to advance to Monday's finals against Indonesian Mandangan Marlan.

Also bidding for the gold is light welterweight Dennis Galvan, who'll be facing another homerooter boy in Alfian Rachdia.

Georgebron Asian Games champion Roy Saludar, however, bowed to Indonesian Arlen Brita in the flyweight division to settle for the bronze.

Flyweight Josie Gabuco and light flyweight Alice Kate Aparri secured their crowns while Merdey Hocoso settled for the light bantamweight silver.

THE PHILIPPINES' Augenis Ramos beats the tag of Indonesia's Jesse Parreginan on third base during baseball's gold-medal game in Palembang. (See story above.) JOVEN APOLINAR

Catalan still SEAG's cycling pursuit king

By Musong R. Castillo

BIDAR, Sitka Java—Alfie Catalan refashioned a long-last title by retaining the 4,000-meter individual pursuit event of the Southeast Asian Games after scorchily measuring Indonesia's Wisnuo Pratu on Sunday.

The ouspeed in the Philippine Army, hammered by Pratu in the qualifiers, was lightning-quick this time, posting a time of four minutes and 5.0.1 seconds for the first cycling gold for the Filipinos as the flamethrower Mindoreno bow.

"This gold (medal) is truly special because we had only four months to prepare for the event," the 28-year-old Catalan said in Filipino after winning his third gold medal, counting victories in 2005 in Manila and in Thailand two years later.

Catalan failed to compete in Laos because of leadership crisis in the cycling federation.

"This victory is also special because we didn't know the caliber of the opposition here," he added.

The Philippines finished 1-3 in the event after John Rene Mier clocked in with a time of 5:00.90 for third, coming out Andy Miranda of Malaysia, who timed 5:01.31.

The men's 4,000-meter team pursuit squad led by Mier and Catalan and John Paul Morales and Arnold Morales, also took the bronze medal.

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Group bucks MVP's connector road plan

Citra says proposed link to NLEx part of Skyway deal

By Paolo G. Montecillo

BUSINESSMAN Manuel V. Pangilinan's bid for the contract to build the so-called "connector road" will not go as smoothly as he hoped for due to the pronouncement of a rival group that it had a more lawful claim to the deal.

The "connector road" is a planned project that will link the two major toll road systems of the north and south of Metro Manila.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), which is chaired by Pangilinan, recently submitted an unsolicited proposal to build the P15-billion project at no cost to the government.

However, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., operator of the Metro Manila Skyway, said a recent Department of Justice opinion said that the right to build a connector road through Manila should go to the company.

"A connector road was part and parcel of our original proposal for the Skyway which the government approved," said Ed Segovetcovo, vice president of Citra's operating subsidiary Skyway O&M Corp.

He said the project's original proposal for the Skyway was made up of three parts. The first was for the construction of the original overhead road section from Buendia to Bicutan. Skyway's stage 2 was the recently completed extension of the original section to the Alabang viaduct in Muntinlupa.

BRIEFS B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 19, 2011
43.395

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 18, 2011
32.23

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Thin trading seen

INVESTORS are likely to take their cue from foreign developments in the coming days due to the lack of compelling news locally that led to lackluster trading the week before.

THINK B1

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Toll woes /B2
■ **Apex** gets $6-M funding from Razon's Monte Oro /B4
■ **ATI eyes** expansion overseas /B5
■ **Gold:** An investment to be treasured /B2-4

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Toll woes

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

TOLLROAD industry veteran Jennifer Bisbe has resigned as president of Public Estates Authority-Tollway Corp. (PEATC), the operator of the Manila Cavite Toll Expressway Project—more commonly known as the Coastal Road.

Bisbe earlier consoled families, first as the president of controversial Philippine International Airport Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco).

Despite her exhibition experience in privately run high ways, Bisbe's resignation may not have come as a complete surprise to industry stakeholders, given Coastal Road's current financial woes.

Our sources say Coastal Road is now in dire straights after it apparently miscalculated the amount of money it could make from the recently opened Coastal Road extension from Las Piñas to Bacoor, Cavite.

In a ratings report last August, global debt watcher Moody's Investor Service noted that ₱3.068-billion worth of debt securities, which the Coastal Road firm issued to fund the construction of the new section, is at stake if its financial partner doesn't improve. Paolo Montecillo

SM's flagship hotel

NOT too long after opening "Taytay Riviera by the Ocean," upscale hotel in Cebu City...one that was more than a decade in the making—the resort's group is now busy planning its next Radisson Blu.

This one will be the flagship hotel of the group and situated right within the Mall of Asia complex. The 400-room Radisson Blu in MOA will rise in three-to four years' time.

Meanwhile, the SM hotel and convention group is also replicating the SMX concept in MEM in key growth areas outside Luzon. Simultaneously with the opening of its Aseana City, Davao will be the debut of SMX Davao. At around 8,000 square meters, SMX Davao will be slightly less than half the size of the war-torn center in MOA (still huge, don't you?).

Though Luzonian is currently the smallest unit among SM's core business segments, just watch how "Taytay" scales this up. Doris C. Bonifacio

'Local repat' expanding

GREN is proposals to increase so-called "sin taxes" and to implement stricter labeling rules on cigarettes—both said to be resisted by the industry—are time to sweat dividends from controversial endorsements. As the country's biggest cigarette manufacturer is upping the ante on its business.

Chris Nelson, president of Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corp. (PMFTC), said the company is one of the erstwhile biggest rivals in the domestic market wanted to expand production of tobacco leaves to areas other than the industry's traditional base of Northern Luzon.

Apparently PMFTC wants to construct more factories in Mindoro in addition to existing plantations as well as in Isabela and Bacolod City which are geographically close to the growing Ilocandia corridor.

Nelson said that if such plans push through, the number of Filipinos directly deriving their living from the tobacco industry would exceed 2.7 million.

There was some confusion about the first figure—whether it was "two" or "three." The British executive said: "Believe, me folks," proclaiming the words like a loyal would.

Anticipating the surprise answers these garnered, several him about his linguistic skills, Nelson quickly added: "I learned that from playing cards." When asked if he meant poker, he said Tong-its and Pusoy Dos—again saying the words without the imported twang.

He said he was introduced to these card games when he got married here 32 years ago. "My wife is from Bicol, and I understand everybody gets excellent when they speak English, so I thought I should speak the local language, and what's a better way than by playing cards?"

Ah...if only making and selling cigarettes were as easy. Jimmel P. Domingo

Abaitis' big move

DON'T tell the guys back in Cebu but two publicly-listed companies of the Abaitis Group—Abaitis Equity Ventures Inc. and Abaitis Power Corp.—are moving their corporate headquarters from the "Queen City of the South" to Manila.

According to ABV president and CEO Ramoncito Abaitis, a major factor for this important move was the steady growth of those companies in recent years.

"With the acquisitions the past few years, over 70 percent of our portfolio comes from businesses in Luzon," he said.

Abaitis, who is also president and CEO of Abaitis Power, said reducing the frequency of travel to mainland with Manila-based stakeholders would enhance the operations of the companies (despite the family's private aircraft notwithstanding).

Apparently, the conglomerate's investments in Luzon have grown to the point that they are now demanding more time and face-to-face meetings.

"By continuing to be based in Cebu, we end up compromising many things in terms of being able to deal with these stakeholders more effectively," Abaitis said. "The move to Manila has been a discussion for generations. We feel it is high time to make the move."

While the transfer was a challenging and difficult decision to make, the company will assist employees who will be affected by the relocation, which will run until June 2013.

No worries for Cebuanos though, as the conglomerate will retain some offices in Cebu and several Mindanao.

Dazzle C. Lucas

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BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

ADVISORY

ATM Card Switching *Modus Operandi*

Beware of ATM card switching when doing ATM transactions

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) again warns the public against "ATM switching" during their withdrawals, inquiries and Point-of-Sale (POS) transactions. It has come to the attention of the BSP that unscrupulous individuals resort to a modus operandi, with some variations, to unsuspecting ATM cardholders resulting in the "switching" of ATM cards and unauthorized withdrawals. Thus, the BSP is re-issuing its Advisory issued on 04 November 2009 titled:

"Warning:
Protect Your Automated Teller Machine (ATM) PIN and
Avoid ATM Card Switching"

The modus operandi used is described as follows:

"The suspect will approach the legitimate ATM cardholder after the latter has completed his/her ATM transaction taking note/peek that there is money, e.g. a ₱1,000.00 bill still, stacked in the machine. The suspect would then ask the victim to make a balance inquiry of the account, giving him the opportunity to look at the Personal Identification Number (PIN). Keyed-in by the victim, one would then drop a bill-paying if claims out of the machine, purportedly as part of the victim's withdrawal. While the cardholder is busy picking up the money, the suspect would then remove the ATM from the machine and switch it with another ATM card.

"Your PIN may also be stolen from you through 'shoulder surfing' which happens when someone stands close enough to the ATM card holder to see the cardholder entering his PIN.

"To protect yourself from theft of PIN through ATM card switching, shoulder surfing or other methods, please be guided by the following:

- When using an ATM, always shield the keypad. If you feel that somebody is standing too close, don't be afraid to tell the said person who is in line to step back. If you feel uncomfortable, allow the other person to go first and complete your transaction once he/she has left.
- Always inspect the ATM you are using. Some fraudulent card reader devices can be easily spotted. If some parts around the slot for inserting the card do not seem right, consider walking away and transacting in another machine.
- Never share your PIN with another person. Not even with your family or friends and absolutely never with a stranger.
- Choose a PIN that is easy for you to remember but which is not based on a birthday, anniversary, address, or telephone number.
- Change your PIN regularly.
- Do not use the same PIN on all your cards. While doing so may be easier for you to remember your PIN, it also makes it easier for a thief to access all your accounts if your wallet is stolen.
- Memorize your PIN, never write it down or keep it in your wallet.
- Report captured cards immediately. As much as possible, do not leave the machine without first inputting the card capture, immediately call the bank where your ATM card was captured using a cell phone or the phone provided by the bank in the ATM booth."

FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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People Events & Products

GCash partners with Softbank for PH remittance service

G ALVANCE INC. (GXI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom that manages GCash, partnered with Softbank Payment Service Corp. (SBPS), a subsidiary of Japan's Softbank Corp., for an affordable, convenient, and secure remittance service that will greatly benefit Filipinos living and working in Japan.

With the partnership, Filipinos living and working in Japan can remit money to the Philippines via the GCash platform.

"We are giving Filipinos in Japan a better choice with GCash providing an alternative remittance service that's safe, secure and clearly more affordable. They can send money any time of the day from virtually anywhere in Japan in real time," said Peale Baliza, GXI president.

SBPS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan telecommunications and media corporation group Softbank Corp., which also owns Softbank Mobile, one of Japan's largest telecommunications companies. Softbank Mobile is one of the most widely-used wireless carriers by Filipinos living in Japan. Japan, on the other hand, is the Philippines' fifth largest source of OFW remittances, with total inflows reaching close to $908 million in 2011.

To avail of the service, a sender in Japan simply has to register for membership at the SBPS-GCash website, www.gcash.jp, which can be accessed either from a PC or a smartphone. Members then can use the SBPS-GCash website to access remittance services. The sender inputs the amount of money to be sent, along with the beneficiary's name, address, and mobile number. A member must have enough money in his/her account for the transaction to push through. A member may deposit money to his/her SBPS-GCash account via bank transfer either at the nearest ATM, or Internet banking as well as more than 8,000 convenience stores in Japan.

On the other hand, the beneficiary in the Philippines can receive the cash remittance coming from Japan in real time through GCash. He/she can withdraw the remittance through multiple Globe stores, 98 Aurinco Bank, Cebuana Lhuillier, Smartmoney, and Prime Asia Pawnshop branches, among others. The beneficiary may also opt to receive the remittance directly to his/her mobile phone enrolled in GCash or deposit it in his/her bank account.

For more information about the SBPS-GCash remittance service, visit www.gcash.jp or call the SBPS-GCASH Customer Support Center in Japan at +81-8-6845-6480, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

G XCHANGE Inc. and Softbank Payment Service Corp. seal their partnership for SBPS-GCash remittance service for Filipino workers in Japan. SBPS president and CEO Shinichi Mizuno and vice president Yasuo Ikehata signed the partnership agreement between the two companies.

ALI JOINS KOREAN FIRMS IN LAGUINDINGAN PROJECT

Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) has signed a partnership Memorandum of Understanding with leading Korean companies Korean Airports Corp. (KAC) and Samsung C&T Corp. in line with its plan to pursue the bid for the privatization of the operations and maintenance of the Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental. Present at the signing were SBPS Chairman and CEO Jaime T. Ayala; ALI president and CEO, Bong S. Chua; KAC CEO and president Jae-Won Cherry Seo; Samsung C&T senior executive vice president Kwon Kyung-ki; Korean Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Lee Hyo Min, who witnessed the signing and expressed his full support for the partnership between the Philippines and Korean companies. KAC is an expert in airport construction and operations, and manages 14 airports in South Korea. Samsung C&T, on the other hand, is a company involved in infrastructure, energy and natural resources, and petrochemical materials businesses. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is currently constructing the Laguindingan facility and expects the opening of the airport by 2013.

FedEx is in Top 5 of the world's best workplaces

THE GREAT Place to Work Institute recently announced that FedEx Express, an operating company of FedEx Corp., has been named as one of the top five global companies to work for in its inaugural ranking of the World's Best Multinational Workplaces. FedEx was selected for this recognition from among the 350 multinational companies in 45 countries that were included in Great Place to Work. lists from around the world in 2010 and 2011.

"FedEx Express is honored to be recognized as a top company to work for on the first-of-its-kind global ranking," said David J. Bronczek, president and chief executive officer of FedEx Express. "Throughout our history and global expansion, we have remained firmly committed to fostering a strong culture that emphasizes the connection between engaged, satisfied team members and the high-quality service for which FedEx is known. This award affirms the success of this approach, and it's thanks to our thousands of team members around the world that we can deliver on this promise every day."

FedEx Express employs more than 150,000 team members globally with nearly a third based outside of the US. In 2011, the company was included in 13 national Great Place to Work lists, including those in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Central America, Chile, France, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates. FedEx was also named to the Great Place to Work Institute's first Corporate to Watch list, Hall of Fame in 2010.

BPI launches limited edition BPI 160th Tattoo stick

IN CELEBRATION of the Bank of the Philippine Islands' (BPI) 160th anniversary, BPI and Globe Telecom teamed up anew to launch a commemorative Tattoo broadband stick that allows access to BPI Express Online and accompanying BPI services without the need for prepaid load.

Bearing a stylish design celebrating one of the country's oldest banking institutions, the Tattoo BPI 160th anniversary stick is the first and only co-branded internet broadband stick that allows access to various BPI websites, without using the stick's preloaded amount. This means even at zero prepaid balance, BPI clients can still do online banking transactions, such as fund transfers, prepaid mobile reloading, bills payment, express cash reload, and balance inquiries.

In addition, BPI accountholders can have continuous internet access since they can easily top up their BPI Tattoo sticks via BPI Express Online real time. The stick also has a call option so clients can access the BPI Express Phone for more banking services.

Last year, Globe tied up with BPI for the first co-branded Globe BPI mobile broadband stick, the BPI 24/7 Tattoo stick, bearing the same innovative features of the Tattoo BPI 160th anniversary stick, free access to BPI Express Online, even without load, plus instant reloading of the stick via the account holders' BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or BPI Direct Deposit accounts, as well as 24/7 customer assistance hotline.

As a special promotional offer, the Tattoo BPI 160th anniversary stick is sold for only P699 each and is available online through www.mybpi.ph/tattoo and can be delivered nationwide free of charge. The Tattoo stick is pre-loaded with P100 load balance and 120 hours of free internet browsing valid for five days. Access to other internet sites is charged the standard rate of P5 for every 15 minutes.

Apart from instant sign-ups via BPI Express Online, the stick can also be activated via other BPI 24/7 banking channels such as Express Phone, Express Mobile and the Express Teller machines or through Globe prepaid cards, Autoload800, Share-a-load and GCash.

At present, between 80 to 90 percent of BPI transactions are done online. The broadband stick is set to benefit BPI's almost four million customers.

NDHS alumni holds 33rd Batik-Tipon homecoming

ALL ALUMNI of the Notre Dame High School are invited to join the ND ALUMNI 33rd Batik-Tipon general homecoming on Sunday, Nov. 27, at the NHMC Alumni Center in Cubao (the starting venue of the Batik-Tipon will be hosted by several batches on classes beginning by batches ending on Class 1987, and by BATCH 2002 as present Prexy Regino and Batik Tipon chair Jenny Austria. For details, please call the Alumni Center office at (632) 911-0726 or 0915-9994 or contact secretary Toni Concepcion at 0916 576-9990 and (0920) 581-0302.

Apex gets $6-M funding from Razon's Monte Oro

Money to finance mine in Compostela Valley

By Ron T. Dalmedes

LISTED mining firm Apex Mining Co. Inc. said it has closed a $6-million investment deal with Monte Oro Resources and Energy Inc., a private company whose principal stockholder is port tycoon Enrique K. Razon, Jr.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday, Apex said it would use the proceeds for capital expenditures for its mine and mill and start the drilling program on its copper-gold tenements.

Apex holds a mineral production sharing agreement or MPSA for a copper-gold deposit located at Mati, Compostela Valley, where the company mines an average of 700 tons of ore a day.

Apex said that for $6 million, Monte Oro subscribed to 75.34 million primary class "B" shares of Apex. That was equivalent to about 5 percent of the total outstanding capital stock of the company, Apex said.

Monte Oro is engaged in mining and oil and gas exploration in the Philippines. Monte Oro's principals have a proven investment track record in oil and gas exploration, joint venture agreement, power transmission, waste management, gaming, property development and many other endeavors, Apex said.

"This investment by Monte Oro is a solid affirmation of Apex's commitment to develop its mineral resources under the XRMA framework. We are happy to have Monte Oro on board as a minority partner. We will continue to keep the market informed of developments in resource assessments, mine and mill expansion and exploration drill results over the next few months," Apex chair Colin Patterson said in the company's disclosure.

Monte Oro president Pedro Rivera said: "We have the utmost confidence in Apex's management team and will continue supporting their production and exploration expansion programs. We look forward to being part of Apex's growth."

In the first half of 2011, Apex reported a net income of P10.9 million compared to a net loss of P1.82 million in the same period in 2010. Sales rose to P952.6 million in the first six months from P662.8 million a year ago due to higher gold prices and bigger volume sold.

Group bucks MVP's connector road plan

From page B1

The stage 2 extension linked the southeast section of the Skyway to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), which spans from Alabang to Calamba, Laguna.

Stage 3 of the Skyway proposal approved by the government was for the construction of an overhead roadway from Makati to the North Luzon Expressway in Balintawak, Quezon City.

This differs from MVC's more recent proposal, which seems to build a similar overhead road from Skyway's Makati end to the Manila port area in Tondo. This will eventually connect with MPIC's planned "harbor link" road, which will be a part of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

The MPIC group, through Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., holds the concession for NLEX.

Segurtecnic said the Citra group would oppose the MPIC proposal before the Department of Public Works and Highways using the DOJ opinion issued last month as its legal basis.

"We will pursue their project," he said in a recent interview.

The connector road is the centerpiece of the MPIC group's toll road development plans for the country. The MPIC group also operates the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx). MPIC has also expressed interest in bidding for other toll road projects that the government may soon re-privatize.

Thin trading seen

From page B1

The local index ended the week nearly unchanged to 4,382.43, after opening last Monday at 4,383.96.

"The movements marked the PSEi for 4 straight days as investors remained jittery over the situation in Europe. One market analyst said to lose some even with the lackluster earnings of some companies," local brokerage firm AB Capital Online said in its market review.

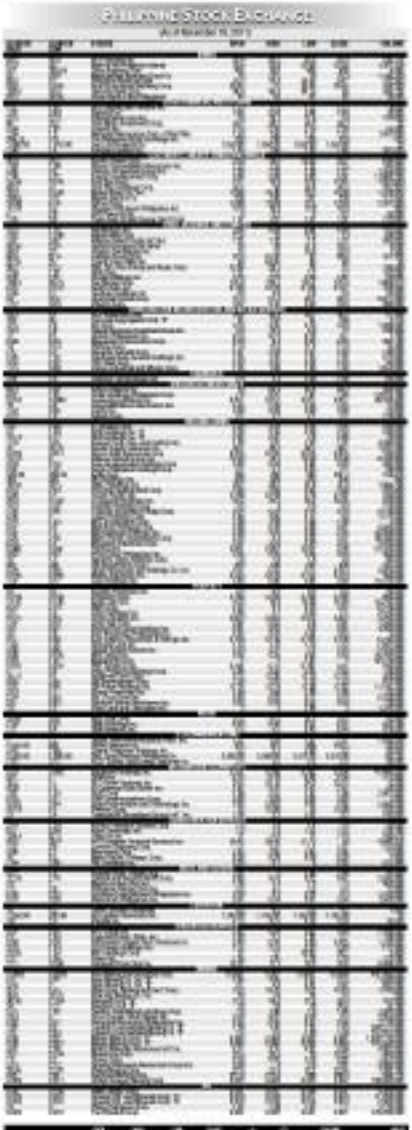
The firm noted that a few stocks performed better than most last week.

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. rose up 6.73 percent after reporting strong third-quarter earnings, posting a triple digit growth of 112 percent in operating income.

Food and beverage firm Universal Robina Corp. was up 7.46 percent and port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. closed 3.66 per cent higher. SMC, URC, and ICTSI were also included in the MSCI Global Index.

Heading into next week, AB Capital said investors might look into US preliminary gross domestic product (GDP) report, which is released on a quarterly basis.

"Strong results from the preliminary GDP may trigger renewed optimism for the global economy as the preliminary GDP have been disappointing," AB Capital said, but added that Europe's debt woes would remain a big concern. - Paolo G. Montecillo



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ATI eyes expansion overseas

Seeks joint-venture deals with Asian counterparts

By Abigail L. Ho

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Workers see slight dip in 2nd quarter pay

Declining wages reflect slowdown in PH economy

By Russell W. Dominguez

THE RATE of growth of workers' average pay eased to 5.1 percent in the second quarter, reflecting a slowdown in total gross revenues and employment as well as compensation.

The National Statistical Coordination Board said in a report the from April to June, the increase in nominal prices of average pay was weaker than the 6.6 percent growth observed in the same period of 2010.

On the other hand, second-quarter growth in per capita compensation was faster than the 1.4 percent recorded in the first quarter this year.

Based on the NSCB's latest Quarterly Economic Indicators report, workers at the real estate sector registered the highest growth in terms of average compensation at 15.3 percent year-on-year.

Other top performers were mining and quarrying, which grew by 10.9 percent, as well as private services, which rose to 8 percent.

The NSCB's QEI are used as bases for deciding on how much wages should be, as well as forecasting and projections.

Aside from real estate, the QEI covers the sectors of manufacturing, mining and quarrying, electricity and water, trade, transportation and communication, finance, and private services.

Growth in the total compensation employee index stood in the total gross rev-

NUMBERS B2.3

PhilCare revenue seen to hit ₱1.3B

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILHEALTHCARE Inc. (PhilCare), the health maintenance organization of the Tanco Group, expects to earn P1.3 billion in revenues this year, up from an estimated P900 million in 2010.

In an interview with the business, PhilCare president and chief executive Monico Jacob said the company aimed to climb up as much as P2 billion in revenues by end-2012.

"PhilCare, when it was still under the (Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co.), used to No. 1, but it has slipped over the years, and we're now No. 4. We plan to regain that No. 1 position soon," he said.

To attain this goal, he said PhilCare would continue to expand its presence in the country by putting up more company-owned clinics nationwide.

PhilCare has five company-owned clinics. The company's network of mid-clinic affiliates number more than 500, with over 10,000 accredited doctors and dentists nationwide.

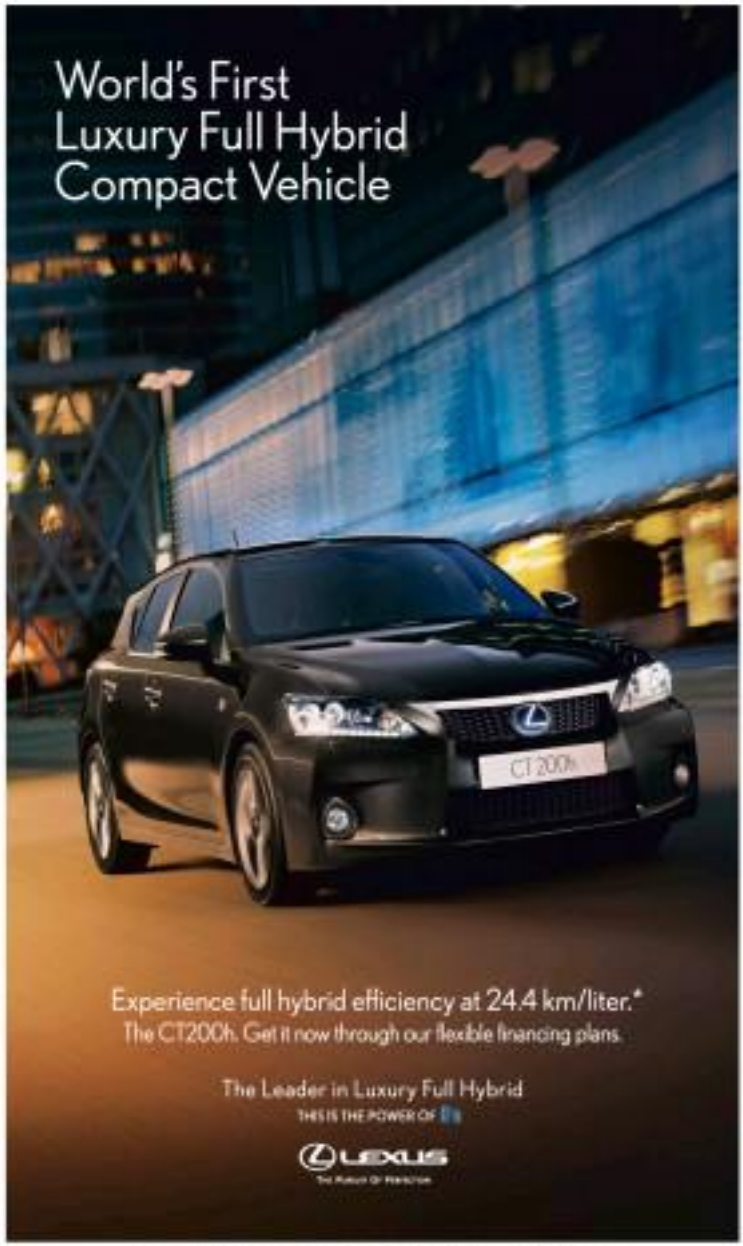
While it has a significant number of accredited clinics spread nationwide, Jacob said the HMO wanted to beef up its clinic-based services for its clients.

PhilCare has a client base of more than 200,000 members and approximately 1,000 corporate accounts.

The HMO became a member of the Tanco Group in September 2009, following the signing of a share sale agreement between Philamlife and affiliate Sun Philippines First Insurance Co. Inc. and the GTI Group.

As part of the Tanco Group, PhilCare clients now get end-to-end healthcare services from the Dr. Lee Seaton-STI Medical Center, DLS-STI College of Health Professions, Dr. Lee Seaton-STI Magnetic, and Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center, in which the STI Group was a shareholder.

PhilCare is also backed by Philippine's more than 100 years of experience and track record in the insurance industry.



People prowler

BREAKTIME

Contributor R. Manuel III

With the fight between the Aquino (Part II) administration and former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo moves to the field of public opinion, something short of another people power.

Oh-oh. I am not sure that it is good for business, although the prospect (yes) with public opinion should make both sides leary for quite some time, even way after the issues in media were some legal matters do arise, including the involvement of the Supreme Court in the legal mess.

At our corners in business network—then fully, I guess—the Supreme Court has other more important matters on the table, not the least of which are cases involving billion-peso projects that promise to create thousands of jobs.

Some here in my barangay (never, the guys are already teasing at the pathetic attempt of the brown envy-to-elicit public sympathy.

For example, in that dramatic scene at the Nido restaurant last week, the Arroyo camp just had to bring in (for) security on a whole body, complete with all the medical gizmos around her head and neck, plus a loud screaming ambulance.

It was definitely a dramatic scene designed for media. I am afraid it did not work. The Arroyos were not feared to expect public sympathy. Had they wanted to, the Arroyo camp could have invaded the Senate at the Nido restaurant and all the media hoi polloi.

News outlets, including most hard radio stations, reported—and "live" at that—the airport unfriendly shenanigans the Arroyo couple, Mrs. Glorietta and former Pres Gentleman Miguel Arroyo permission to board their flight straight from the lanes.

It was obvious that the Arroyo camp needed to make that huge diplomatic scene at the airport for public consumption. Media was "there, right? Live, right?

But also mentioned in the live coverage of the Nido drama was the fact that the Arroyo camp actually booked via—yes, sir—flights for the former First Couple.

The booking was timed with the release of the court-ordered TRO from the Supreme Court.

Thus we now know that those in—again, sir—airline bookings were made a couple of hours before the Supreme Court issued the TRO.

Really, they could not want to have the news day!

The Arroyo camp claimed that the couple was not going to just prowl abroad or something. They had to travel abroad for medical treatment for Glorietta, Hmmm.

It is true that the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) already went on record that this country had more than a hundred medical specialists who could treat Glorietta. The PMA also noted that the former President's condition was not life threatening.

That this had to leave a couple of days after the Supreme Court issued the TRO, somehow tells us that the husband and wife were in a hurry to get out of the country.

And the only reason must be the unclosed of cases that the Aquino (Part II) administration was preparing against them.

Now, the Supreme Court imposed a couple of conditions for the TRO. One of them was that the Arroyos should immediately coughed up the P5 million bond. The Arroyo camp did just up the bond in no time.

Down here in my barangay, we wonder where the money came from. Really, none of the guys down here on my barangay could produce P5 million just like that.

There were reports that Chief Justice Renato Corona had to sell shares to help defend the Arroyos in favor of the TRO against the DOJ watchlist order.

We also know that the Supreme Court was supposed to hear the "oral arguments" regarding the "watchlist" issue sometime this week, which in effect is the case on whether the Arroyos may leave the country.

Thus, right position of the Supreme Court decided that even before the oral arguments would be presented before them, they should already allow Glorietta to leave the country.

Why would the Supreme Court need to hear the "oral arguments" if she already would be gone by then?

Here those eight justices, in reports unilaterally got three Supreme Court appointments from Gloria terms during her time as the Lola in the Palace.

Legal scientists made including the opinion of some high profile individuals in the academe, the public opinion is that those eight justices took the side of GMA as payback for their appointments.

During the Nido drama, there was also an unclear spot report—remember that it was live coverage—that the Arroyos also chartered a flight. Surely the reservation was pretty expensive. And so is his so simple as a gang-land style of quick escape to another country away from the police and the prosecutors of jail.

Court Justice Secretary Leila de Lima all you want, and the Supreme Court can cite law as contempt fifty million times, but the world's lot of points to public opinion by ordering immigration officials to prevent the Arroyos from leaving.

The last was that, when De Lima ordered the watchlist, which in effect prevented the Arroyos from leaving the country, Glorietta herself was already having more than 30 cases of plunder and electoral fraud before the Office of the Ombudsman.

What also need account that the DOJ, together with the Commission on Elections, was about to complete their investigation of an electoral sabotage case against Glorietta.

Look, it was already clear that cheating—massive cheating—took place in the 2007 elections. The supposed beneficiary of the cheating, Senator Miguel Zubiri, already resigned from the Senate.

Also, the complainant in the electoral sabotage case a few, Aquilino Pimentel III, who was already proclaimed the last winning candidate in the 2007 senatorial elections.

There was cheating all right! The only question was whether or not Glorietta was part of it, similar to the "Hello Garci" scandal that already led to her ouster as President of the Republic after the 2004 presidential elections.

Somebody must have the name, in other words, and this is the public opinion line that the Arroyo camp will surely try to destroy it is not an easy campaign.

For now the Aquino (Part II) administration is enjoying a high popularity rating, precisely because our leader Benigno Simeon (a.k.a. BS) is perceived to be clean, free from, so-corruption.

It is the same perception that can support the Aquino (Part II) administration in its fight for public opinion. It seems that the Arroyos must not leave the country to face the plunder, graft and corruption, and electoral sabotage charges against them.

GREEN AWARD

Alcohol Distillers chair Lucio Tan (right) receives the 2011 International Green Apple Environment Award during The Green Organization's 10th awarding ceremony held at the British House of Commons in London. Alcohol was cited for its green initiatives at its Lian, Batangas plant. Inquirer.net photo by Tanbay Distillers director Michael Tan. Alcohol president Carmelo Tee, second from left, and UP alumni Jose Ma. Clemente Hopkins of Pinagkaisahan Solar, and Carmen Tan.

Asean inches closer to integrated market

Bourses across region plan to offer 'highly investable' collective stocks

By Kenneth P. Domingo

EQUITIES officials from seven members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are expected to finalize in early December plans to offer regional shares to be known as a "highly investable asset class."

The move is expected to boost efficiencies and tap the stock markets across the region and pave the way for an integrated Asean economy.

Executives of the Asean stock markets, which includes the Philippine Stock Exchange, said in a statement that a collaborative framework was on track to collectively promote Asean stocks as a package.

PSE president and executive Hans Sicat said that the marketing of the Asean basket and the stocks on an Asean index covers an evolving agreement.

Sicat was referring to a selection of the 38 "most exciting" stocks from each exchange—totaling 219 stocks—ranked in terms of market capitalization and liquidity.

According to the Asean Exchanges, some of the companies are the largest and most dynamic in the world. These companies are considered leaders in finance and banking, telecommunications, commodities, automotive manufacturing and other sectors.

"The 2012 marketing activities ... will be finalized at our scheduled CEOs meeting on Dec. 2 in Hanoi," Sicat said.

The Asean Exchanges collectively make up a market worth around $2.5 trillion.

The other markets are the Indonesian Stock Exchange, Bursa Malaysia, Stock Exchange of Thailand, Singapore Exchange, and Vietnam's Hochiminh Stock Exchange and Hanoi Stock Exchange.

Collectively, the seven exchanges represent 5,421 listed companies with an aggregate capitalization of $1.39 trillion as of March 31.

The Asean Exchange has also announced the rollout in 2012 of its Asean Trading Link—an intra-Asean connectivity trading platform. It will link the stock markets of Singapore and Malaysia, while that of Thailand will join later this year.

Interconnection with the other Asean exchanges, including PSE, "will be announced at a future date."

In a disclosure, the Philippine Stock Exchange said it would temporarily postpone its original plan to be included in the Asean Trading Link as it "underlakes efforts to generate further interest and support for the project from local brokers and the investing public."

PHDC EC chair Wellington Jr. (seated, left) and UP president Alfredo Pascual (right) sign an agreement for a P100-million endowment to be granted by PHDC EC to the University of the Philippines at the PHDC EC office in Fort Bonifacio. Taguig City. PHDC EC will fund scholarships and professorial chairs for university students and faculty members.

Thrift banks cut bad loans

From page B1-4

center banking sector is one of the reasons the BSP is urging members of their respective industries to consider consolidation. That is, strong industry players are encouraged to acquire rural banks or weak clusters and to improve the overall standing of their industries. Another reason is the attention to improve governance in their industries. Financially stronger banks are also deemed to have better governance systems than weaker players.

The BSP together with other government entities, have established separate programs aimed at encouraging consolidation in the rural and cooperative banking sectors.

Under the "Strengthening Program for Rural Banks" (SPRB) and the "Strengthening Programs for Cooperative Banks" (SPCB), the central bank grants regulatory incentives to well-performing industry players that will acquire those that are faced with capitalization problems.

Moreover, potential white knights may be given financial assistance, such as in the form of loans, in their move to acquire other banks.

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CEBU DAILY NEWS

INQUIRER

Workers saw slight dip in 2nd quarter pay

From page B1

rease index grew by 6.7 percent in the second quarter from 14 percent in the same quarter of 2010.

Real estate also registered the highest growth in terms of revenue. Still, it was slower year-on-year at 16.8 percent. Also, property companies reported steady revenue from projects, including rental and leasing operations.

The finance sector followed with 14.9 percent while transportation and communication registered 9.2 percent.

The total employment index grew by 1.8 percent, slowing from 4.9 percent in the year-ago quarter.

The finance sector recorded the highest growth with 2.2 percent.

The wage compensation index grew by 5.2 percent from the previous year's 9.6 percent.

Real estate showed a double-digit growth of 24.6 percent, while private services posted 8 percent and electricity and water had 7.8 percent.

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PLDT SME Nation powers Baker's Fair branches with voice and internet solutions for better store coordination and monitoring of operations. PLDT MYPRO service, installed in their POS machines, aids in real-time sales and inventory management. Picture shows, PLDT SME Nation CMM 'South West' Business Head Carlo Tolosa (right) and PLDT SME Nation CMM Mass Area Sales Head Jermie Saxon (left) join Baker's Fair owner Christopher Ong (center).

EPSON

Gold: An investment to be treasured

By Rizz T. Ordinario

GOLD is often considered a safe investment in times of financial uncertainty. But some investors may not be too interested in it anymore. Recently, prices of the yellow metal have been behaving erratically, making some think, "Is gold still a safe haven?"

Factors cited by economists experts said gold's strong start in 2011 would likely continue on a generally higher price trend on the back of demand for jewelry, central bank purchases, and gold bar and coin investments in new-low India and China.

That does not mean, experts said, that gold prices would inch up steadily every single day. It is natural for prices to get uneven and then settle at new levels, reportedly when prices move too high, too fast, they explained.

In the Philippines, investors do not have access to gold bars and coins, unlike in places like Hong Kong. BDO Capital & Investment Corp. president Edmundo Francisco said in a phone interview:

People have tendency to invest in gold retail to buy jewelry or, alternatively, invest in stocks of gold mining companies that are listed on The Philippine Stock Exchange.

"That's why the stocks of Lepanto (Consolidated Mining Company) and Philex Mining Corp. are up," Francisco said, adding that gold-related investments are expected to remain "attractive" over time.

Volatile

According to the UK-based World Gold Council, global gold demand in the second quarter of 2011 increased 93% to 1,044.5 tonnes—up from the 540.6 tonnes reported in the same period in 2010. The Council said in a report that this was the second highest quarterly rise on record, next to the 1,045.7 tonnes in the fourth quarter of 2003.

India and China apparently accounted for 42 percent of global jewelry and coin investment, and 55 percent of global jewelry demand. The council said this demand would likely continue "due to increasing levels of economic prosperity, high levels of inflation, and forthcoming low gold purchasing levels."

Elsewhere, the council said, "the impact of the European sovereign debt crisis, the developing idea of US debt, and bouts of market pressures, and the QE3 (quiet calibration) has not been generally in the Euro as all likely to drive high levels of investment demand for the foreseeable future."

The World Gold Council, in its website, is described as a market development organization for the gold industry, with 23 members comprising the world's leading gold mining companies. The council said it works within the investment, jewelry and technology sectors.

As for Philippine production, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) General Philippine gold output to rise 6 percent to 44,197 kilograms from last year, with value seen up by 9 percent to P77 billion. Production of all other metals are also anticipated to rise favorably this year.

MGB-Director Leo L. Jasareno said the state agency made a conservative estimate given pronounced volatility in gold price fluctuation.

"Gold prices are erratic, although the general trend is upward. The highest the price, of course, the more encouraging for producers. But producers need to monitor the market closely and may have to adjust their output frequently to match demand," Jasareno said.

Experts say the reversing numbers should be for the long term. Gold prices have been volatile recently because of ongoing political and economic uncertainty in various parts of the world.

'Will gold prices hold up?'

While the World Gold Council does not make predictions about the gold price, it has reported that the underlying fundamentals support continued gold buying from various sources.

"Gold continues to demonstrate its attributes as a hedge against credit risk, currency risk and inflation/deflation risk amidst the ongoing sovereign uncertainty. There are few people left that see these factors to end soon," said Marcus Grubb, managing director for investment at the World Gold Council headquartered in London.

In fact, the price of gold has risen every year since 2001, and this market has consistently adjusted to higher price levels, Grubb said via e-mail.

Officials of mining companies with projects in the Philippines are equally bullish.

"Gold tends to be an investment in times of uncertainty, so it's really hard to tell. But we have an optimistic long-term outlook that gold generally remains attractive to investors in the long term, and especially during periods of financial or political turmoil," said Mark Williams of Eagleridge Mines Inc.

Gold adds value

Benito Chanyoll, CFO of Benguet Corp., the oldest mining company in the Philippines, said gold-related investments would remain attractive as part of a range of investments.

"Investors keep putting down to gold because of the confidence that you've invested in something tangible, something that exists physically," Chanyoll said.

The World Gold Council, said Grubb, advocates "strategic holding" of gold, regardless of price.

"Our analysis of gold's chameleon value is always made on the basis of conservative assumptions about the price path. Through this analysis, gold has proven, time and time again, to add value, irrespective of the price level," Grubb said.

For Philippine-based gold-related investments tend to be either the high jewelry or securities, there is a piece of good news. Some market recommendations have apparently said that gold mining stocks are undervalued and could present buying opportunities as a result.

"There is a significant amount of free cash flow in the industry, which some believe will give hybrid producers flexibility to pursue acquisitions, fund growth projects and unilaterally reverse dividends," Grubb said.

In short, people said, gold may rise and fall in price from day to day but, over time, there's no dulling the yellow metal as a safe investment.

RECYCLING is at the heart of HP's program for the environment.

Saving the world with ink cartridges

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS not hard to imagine that every hour of every working day, Filipino households or company offices rip an ink cartridge produced by Hewlett-Packard (HP), one of the leading ink and printer brands in the Philippines.

Some of these spent cartridges are sold for a small fee to sidewalk vendors, who in turn resell them to companies refilling ink into the empty cartridges and passing them off as original HP products. Reliability to pursue acquisitions, fund growth projects and unilaterally reverse dividends," Grubb said.

In short, people said, gold may rise and fall in price from day to day but, over time, there's no dulling the yellow metal as a safe investment.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Others said during a recent media briefing in Mandaluyong, some of these spent cartridges could end up in landfills. That would be unfortunate, because HP has invested in technologies, systems and technologies to ensure its impact on the environment, and one of these is the "closed loop" ink cartridge recycling system.

"Recycling is at the heart of HP's environmental policy," Dirkzwager said.

The Lavington Group recently put up a new plastic compounding facility in Malaysia and Dirkzwager said that the new facility will allow HP to maximize the volume of Original HP Ink cartridges that can be manufactured using the "closed loop" recycling process.

"We are excited to grow our collaboration with Lavington in 'closed loop' ink cartridge recycling, which will help our customers who are using Original HP Ink reduce their impact on the environment," Dirkzwager said.

Through its HP Planet Partners Program available in 30 countries and territories, the company provides systems for commercial customers to help return used HP products to send core-free spent cartridges for recycling.

The technology company said that the cycling efforts by customers and HP have kept 1.1 billion plastic bottles and more than 22.6 million HP ink cartridges out of landfills. Last year, HP used 6,000 tons of recycled plastic from plastic bottles and Original HP ink cartridges recovered through the HP Planet Partners program to manufacture its own Original HP ink cartridges. This is equivalent to keeping 240 cruiser-sized loads of plastic from going into landfills.

Users of HP ink cartridges in the Philippines can do their share in the environmental recycling effort by keeping the spent cartridges out of the landfills and putting them back instead in the hands of HP.

One recycled cartridge means one less cartridge in the trash.

CLOSING THE LOOP (From left) Teo Chin Eng, manager, Inkjet Web Solutions; Annette Dirkzwager, head of environmental management, HP Asia Pacific and Japan; Jean-Luc Lavergne, president, Lavergne Group; and Dean Miller, program manager, Sapphire Recycling Solutions, HP

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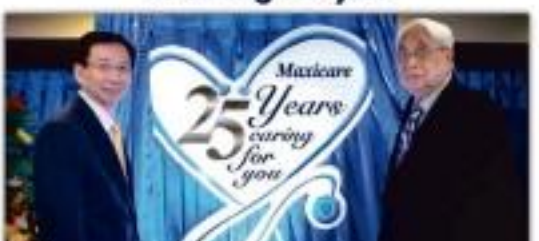

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BUSINESS

Thrift banks cut bad loans

But ratios of rural institutions deteriorate

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE EXPOSURE of thrift banks to bad debts shrank, but that of rural and cooperative banks grew in the first quarter, as the entire banking industry extended more loans to individuals and enterprises.

This was according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which reported Friday that although thrift banks lent more, they were able to trim their level of exposure to loans defaults given the better credit worthiness of their clients.

For the other hand, rural and cooperative banks suffered from higher levels of bad debts as they extended more credit.

Data from the BSP showed that the thrift banking sector's average non-performing loan (NPL) ratio—the share of bad debts to their total loan portfolio—improved to 6.36 percent by the end of the first quarter from 7.05 percent as of the same period last year.

The total NPL ratio for thrift banks was also better quarter-on-quarter. The ratio stood at 7.22 percent by the end of the fourth quarter of last year.

NPLs, or what may also be called as "bad debts" or "secured loans," are those that have remained unpaid from at least 30 days after either interest or principal payment are due.

On one hand, combined NPLs of thrift banks amounted to P121.66 billion by end-March this year, down year-on-year by 4.5 percent from P125.19 billion. On the other, their total loan portfolio amounted to P585.46 billion, rising by 9 percent from P520.99 billion.

For rural banks, meanwhile, their total loan portfolio also grew as their appetite for extending credit and demand for loans from the countryside expanded. However, the growth in their loan portfolios was outpaced by the increase in their bad debts, thus resulting in a higher NPL ratio.

The NPL ratio for the rural banking sector nearly rose into double-digit territory by the end of the first quarter, hitting 14.39 percent. This was up from 8.43 percent as of the same period last year and from 9.66 percent by the end of the fourth quarter of last year.

Total loans of rural banks amounted to P105.1 billion, rising by nearly 6 percent year-on-year from P99.35 billion.

The rise in their combined bad debts over the same period, however, was much faster at nearly 17 percent to P16.92 billion from P14.46 billion.

Cooperative banks had a similar story. They suffered from an increase in average NPL ratio as the increase in their loan portfolios was outpaced by the rise in loan defaults.

NPL ratio of the cooperative banking sector hit 8.14 percent by the end of the first quarter, up from 7.46 percent as of the same period last year and from 7.92 percent by the end of the fourth quarter of last year.

The rise also in their combined loan portfolios amounted to P13.6 billion, growing year-on-year by 7.6 percent from P10.07 billion, and as their bad debts rose by nearly 25 percent to P900 million from P774 million.

The rising NPL ratios of rural and coop

BWRT-B2

BUSINESS

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Spending cuts pose new threat to US economy

Congressional panel to act on deficit reduction package

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Investors' eyes on Europe's hefty 7% bond yields

PRADA Recordipower awards one of his factories in Parma, Ricordi, awarded a "Knight of Labor" honor for his business achievements, employs around 220 people at his Milan-Outlets group. Italy's biggest manufacturer of ready-made pasta sauces. Companies in Italy, France and Germany – the three largest economies in the euro zone – are reacting to the bloc's debt woes jointly with varying degrees of success/failure and efforts, mainly depending on how much their clients, and their own business models, are reliant on home. AP/File

ECB chief urges action on rescue fund

FRANKFURT—European Central Bank (ECB) chief Mario Draghi told euro zone governments on Friday to act fast to get their rescue funding and running, expressing exasperation at their lack of progress in response to an escalating debt crisis.

With the ECB under intense pressure to play a greater role in tackling the euro zone crisis, Draghi said parliaments had failed to put into practice decisions underpinning the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF)—the rescue fund which they have promised to give more firepower without yet explaining how.

"Where is the implementation of these long-standing decisions?" Draghi said at a banking conference in Frankfurt. "We should not be wasting any longer."

While the ECB, with strong German support, is resistant to pressure from political interference and resulting calls from some European governments to take major action in response to the spreading debt crisis, it has made limited bond purchases that have unsettled investors' nerves.

European shares rebound losses, helped by falling Italian and Spanish bond yields after the ECB intervened again to buy debt in the secondary market.

Deutsche Bank Chief Executive Josef Ackermann said European governments did not rely on the ECB to solve the euro zone debt crisis.

"The ECB's primary role should not be to take up these loads," he said.

Euro zone governments have set a December deadline to strengthen the EFSF but have been hampered by delays, surging borrowing costs and scant investor interest.

Italy's new government has announced far-reaching reforms in response to the European debt crisis. Prime Minister Mario Monti unveiled sweeping reforms to dig the country out of crisis and said Italians were confronting a "serious emergency."

Monti, who enjoys 71-percent support in opinion polls, comfortably won a vote of confidence in his new government in the Senate on Thursday by 281 votes to 25.

He faces another confidence vote in the Chamber of Deputies, due later today, on Friday, which he also expects to win comfortably.

In Athens, Greece's national unity government was submitting an austerity budget to parliament, a last step towards meeting the terms of an international bailout it needs to avoid bankruptcy.

Hoffman-Riboli outlined a raft of policies including pension and labor market reform, a crackdown on tax evasion and changes to the bail-out system in his maiden speech to parliament.

He later spoke to French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who all agreed on the need to accelerate reforms, the three leaders said in a joint statement.

While Italy's borrowing costs were at unsustainable levels, Monti will have to work fast to calm financial markets, given that Italy matures an 16 billion euros ($22 billion) of bonds by the end of April.

But no amount of austerity in Greece, Italy, Spain, Ireland and France is likely to convince the markets without some dramatic action in the short term, according the ECB. Reuters

US economy seen pulling out of slump; Q4 expected to be better than Q3

LONDON—In some cultures, the number 7 is mystical and magical; in the euro zone, it's a blood-red.

Yields on the bonds of two of the country's largest economies—Italy and Spain—were tallies at or within a whisker of 7 percent in the past week, creating huge concern about future funding and prompting a sell-off in riskier assets.

Widely considered the level at which backing costs become too high to be sustainable, extended periods of 7 percent yields have previously prompted bailouts for Ireland and Portugal.

Italy and Spain are too big for this, particularly combined, so it is almost certain that this week will be dominated by investors trying to see how they can react—or not react—at least for sustained.

Notably bond-buying data from the European Central Bank, released on Monday, will give some idea of how much the authorities had to fight to keep yields just where they were.

The European Commission also publishes its consultation paper on common euro zone bond issuance, something Germany strongly objects to.

With the end-of-month deadline approaching for the euro zone to produce firm plans for leveraging the European Financial Stability Facility bail-out fund, and hopefully also for loosely combining central bank offers, talk and less finance ministers.

The point for financial markets is that at the moment of receiving closed valuation can register will value hold from Greece and other sensitive countries' debt problems, it already has done.

"We are selling pressure moving to the core members, including the Netherlands and Austria," said Nick Hammerton, macro strategist at RBS Capital Markets. And with yields rising in France and Belgium as well, it could even be argued that even Europe now only consists of Germany. But bonds have begun acting in a way that suggests they may be losing some of their safe-haven appeal.

Add to that the behavior of euro/dollar cross-currency basis swaps. The cost to European banks of swapping euros for dollars in the past week or so is more expensive level since the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

Europe may not actually be on the brink, but markets are beginning to act as if it is. With such a crisis under way, it is hard to see how European Commission plans will impress investor attention, that while Europe wallows, the US economy has been pulling out of its mid-recession slump.

Recent readings on the US economy have steadily topped markets' expectations. Many now think the fourth quarter will prove stronger than the third, when the economy expanded at a 2.5 percent annual rate. Reuters

Emerging economies urged to chip into climate fund

CRYSTAL CITY, Virginia—Some developing countries should contribute money to a $100-billion-per-year climate fund to help poor countries combat climate change, the head UN climate negotiator said on Friday.

Todd Stern, the US special envoy on climate change, said reporters although rich countries are expected to contribute to the Green Climate Fund, the door has been left wide open for some advanced emerging economies to do the same.

Speaking after the conclusion of the latest Major Economies Forum, a meeting of the world's 17 biggest emitters and other key countries, Stern said certain countries are likely to contribute to the GCF and "right off the bat."

"It certainly makes sense that that is happen," he said.

Stern added that when Mexican President Felipe Calderon first proposed the Green Fund concept several years ago, he had envisioned that all countries—developed and developing—would contribute from the start to the fund.

Although that horizon has been dropped from the Fund's current wording, which is expected to be adopted at the upcoming climate summit in Durban, South Africa, Stern expects some emerging economies to start pitching in in the "near term."

Last month, Norway and Bangladesh—some of the world's richest and poorest countries, respectively—agreed to call on richer countries Brazil and China to contribute to the Green Climate Fund.

Norway's fund climate negotiator had said in Brussels that while no one expects or requires emerging economies to "come up with the money tomorrow," there is an expectation that they will soon begin to contribute pledging money.

The calls signal a shift in negotiations and reflect China's and India's growing economic standing in climate talks, where they were previously listed as developing nations and were not bound to cut emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.

Last week, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged governments to curb action to work on land, avoided economic issues and scale up donations to a global climate change fund that is at risk of becoming an "empty shell."

Negotiators from around the world are due to meet in Durban at the end of the month to try to work on a new deal to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Reuters

Spending cuts pose new threat

Continued on B11

"There's an inevitable scenario in ordering government spending," said David Kelly of JP Morgan Funds.

The 12-member bipartisan panel, or supercommittee, was created in August to defuse a political standoff over raising the federal borrowing limit.

If it can't agree on a deficit-reduction plan, automatic spending cuts would hit programs prized by both parties, mostly services such as Medicare for Democrats, defense for Republicans.

The panel appears to be deadlocked.

Many economists hoped that an extension of the Social Security payroll tax cut, unemployment benefits would be part of a supercommittee deal. Congress could extend those benefits separately. But it would be under pressure to offset the cost to avoid raising the deficit.

The Social Security tax cut pays most households this year $1,000 to $2,000 this year. Unemployment benefits provide about $300 a week. Most of that money quickly and directly boosts consumer spending, which drives the economy.

By contrast, an expiration of those benefits could cut growth by about three-quarters of a percentage point, economists say. Those in other cuts, like those passed in the August debt deal, and all told, federal budget policies could subtract 1.7 percentage points from growth in 2012, according to JPMorgan Chase and Moody's Analytics.

Given the tepid economy, such a hit could be damaging.

"It would be very difficult for an economy that's doing well to digest, let alone one that's barely growing at potential," said Ryan Sweet, an economist at Moody's. "That could unravel a lot of the improvement we've seen so far."

The economy grew at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the July-September quarter. Some analysts fear it could fall below 2 percent next year, especially if the uncertainty means business investment and hiring. Consumer confidence is renewed.

The US economy faces other threats, too —from persistently high unemployment to Europe's spending debt crisis, which could hamper a recession.

Another cold: Some investors fear that the supercommittee's failure would spark fresh downgrades of US debt.

Standard & Poor's downgraded the government's long-term debt in August. That contributed to a stock market plunge.

It's possible that a double-dip recession scenario would lead the two other major rating agencies—Fitch and Moody's—to lower ours.

But S&P's downgrade did little to tarnish US debt. Treasury prices rose, and yields fell. Bond investors still view Treasurys as a super-safe investment. Federal borrowing costs actually declined.

S&P showed that when a rating agency downgrades the bond issues on safety in the world, it has little impact," Reilly said. The standard for Treasury debt is so broad, accessible and transparent that ratings downgrades don't pose much threat, he added.

Kelly said Wall Street is unlikely to panic given that expectations for the supercommittee "are so low as to be subterranean."

Even so, some lenders appear to be positioning for a crisis. So-called "defensive" sectors of the stock market, like healthcare companies and utilities, which tend to retain their value in a weak economy, have been outpacing the S&P 500 index as a whole.

Over the past month, the economy has shown surprising strength. Reports this week showed that manufacturers are producing more goods and consumers are spending more. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits for the first time is at a seven-month low.

Still, fears from once since the recession officially ended more than two years ago, the economy has displayed vigor only to stumble again. High gas and food prices and Japan's earthquake disrupt showed growth in the first half of the year. Congress' debt-ceiling fight sent consumer confidence to recession levels. AP

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AIM ALUMNI TO GATHER FOR AIM LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

MR. NIPOLEON L. NAZARENO, MBM '73, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Asian Institute of Management, is inviting AIM alumni leaders on November 22, 2011 at AIM, to a special assembly of game changers and leaders for AIM.

The **AIM LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY** will gather AIM alumni from different industries to serve as a major constitutive body for AIM affairs. Through Mr. Nazareno's leadership, AIM alumni will take a more active participation in the school.

Mr. Nazareno, an outstanding AIM alumnus who graduated from the Masters in Business Management program in 1973 is also the President and CEO of Smart Communications, Inc. and PLDT. He was appointed Chairman of AIM in February 2011. According to him, "Now is the time to really step up and be a part of AIM's next phase of evolution. The alumni should be the driving force because they are the major stakeholders of the school."

"NOW IS THE TIME TO REALLY STEP UP AND BE A PART OF AIM'S NEXT PHASE OF EVOLUTION. THE ALUMNI SHOULD BE THE DRIVING FORCE BECAUSE THEY ARE THE MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS OF THE SCHOOL."

The event will formally launch the Council of AIM Leaders and introduce the forthcoming **AIM ALUMNI LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION**. It is seen as a golden opportunity for alumni to be informed of the developments in AIM. Alumni leaders from different batches and courses will be there to give their insights and network with one another.

The event is organized by the Alumni Association of AIM (AAAIM) Philippine Chapter, under the leadership of its Chairman **Mr. Eustaquio Orobia, Jr.** and **Mr. Augusto Antonio Serafica, Jr.**, Chairman of the AAAIM Development Committee.

For more information, please contact the **AIM Alumni Relations Office** at aimalumni@aim.edu or call (02) 892-4011 loc. 333.

Japan, China, S.Korea seek treaty by end-'11

NUSA DUA, Indonesia—Leaders of Japan, China and South Korea Saturday agreed to seek a (bilateral) investment treaty by the end of this year as a way to speed up talks on a free trade pact among the three countries, a senior Japanese official said. They also agreed to finish studies by their governments, industries and experts on the proposed free trade agreement by the end of December so that they could start formal negotiations on the trade pact.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told his Chinese and South Korean counterparts at a trilateral summit that it was time to seal the investment treaty as their four-year-long negotiations were getting close to bearing fruit.

The official declined to give details on the investment treaty as it is still under negotiation, but an investment treaty in general would boost legal stability for investment and help companies to have an enhanced predictability about their business environment.

Malaysian Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and President Lee Myung-bak on the Indonesian resort island of Bali ahead of the East Asian Summit, where boosting economic cooperation in the region is on the agenda. Reuters

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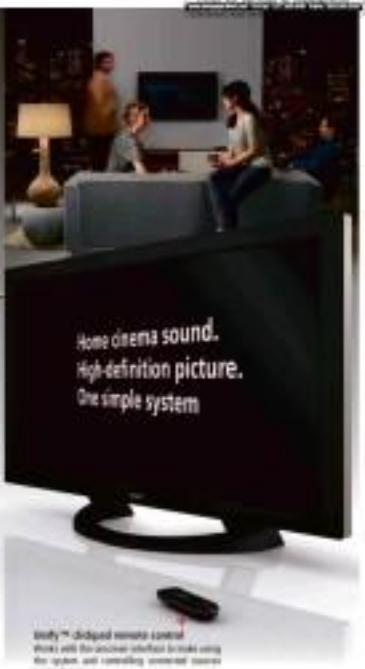

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Firms issued ₱142-B bonds

Total flotation in first 8 months up 15%

By Michelle V. Ramos

BONDS issued by corporate entities rose at a double-digit pace as of end-August from a year ago, indicating a pickup in investment activities that could help the economy sustain a decent growth at least over the short term.

Corporate bond issuances amounted to P142 billion in the first eight months of the year, rising nearly 15 percent from P124 billion in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a report.

Central bank officials said the proceeds of bond issuances were used not only to repay debts, but also to fund expansion and investment initiatives.

The rise in corporate bond issuances also meant that the bond market was becoming another major source of financing for enterprises, thus easing the pressure on the banking sector to provide loans to their corporate clients, the BSP said.

Nonetheless, the BSP said bank loans have in fact grown also at a double-digit pace this year, hitting almost 20 percent as of end-August, as banks enjoyed rising liquidity that allowed them to lend more.

Meanwhile, the growth in corporate bond issuance came together with the rise in corporate bond raising through the sale of stocks on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Central bank data showed that capital raised through the PSE amounted to P64 billion from January to August, up 35 percent from P50 billion a year ago.

The appetite of banks to lend more, as well as accessibility of financing from the domestic bond and equities markets, made it easier for enterprises to pursue whatever investment plans they had, the BSP said.

Available liquidity in the financial markets, however, have to be cushioned with efforts to address factors that dampen appetite for investments, economists said.

While investments by local companies have risen significantly this year, economists said the Philippines still lagged behind its neighbors in terms of attracting foreign direct investments due to problems related to infrastructure, bureaucracy and the regulatory environment.

Economists said infrastructure-related problems made the transport of goods in the country costlier. The tedious process in setting up businesses and changing regulations also discouraged foreign companies.

Officials said, however, that the problems were being addressed. In the area of infrastructure, they said the government, through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) program, was promoting investments among the private sector in key public projects.

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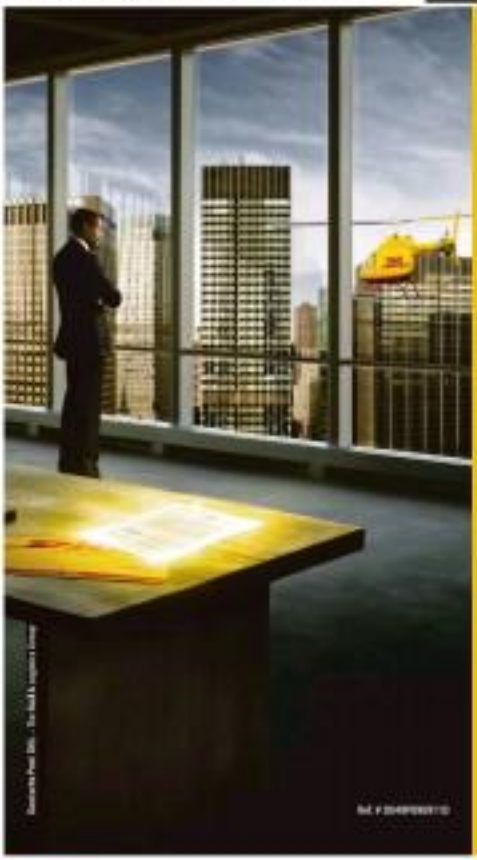

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Nineteen years ago, Nov. 21, 1992,
closing peacefully was mother, and grandmother

LUZ B. MARCELO

Left this world to join our Creator in His Heavenly Kingdom.

Her family requests relatives and friends to remember her in prayers on this day.

"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon her."

Holy masses will be offered today, Monday, Nov. 21, 2011 at the following churches:

Immaculate Conception Parish, Malolos City	6:00 am
Redemptorist Church, Baguio City	7:15 am
Redemptorist Church, Baguio City	7:30 am
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ermita, Manila	8:00 am
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Makati City	8:00 am
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Quezon City	10:00 am
National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Valenzuela City	10:00 am
National Shrine of Mother of Perpetual Help, Marikina	10:30 am
Perpetual Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, Cainta	11:00 am
National Shrine of Sacred Heart, San Antonio Vil., Makati City	11:00 am
Shrine of the Divine Mercy Parish, Mandaluyong City	12:00 am
Perpetual Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Manila	12:00 am
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, Quezon City	12:00 am
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Pasay City	6:15 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Makati	6:30 pm
Carmel of St. Therese Parish, Quezon City	6:30 pm
St. Rita de Casia Parish, Paranaque City	6:30 pm
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	6:30 pm
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Vil., Makati City	6:30 pm
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila	6:30 pm

MA. CARIDAD SUSANA R. ANGELES

Peacefully joined her Creator
on December 18, 2011 at the age of 72

She is survived by her children Pablo C. Angeles, Jr. (+) and Susanna Ramos (+); her brothers Rodolfo (+) and Pablo, Jr. (+); her sisters Susanna (+) and Ma. Fe (+); the in-laws of siblings Ma. Esperanza and Ma. Teresita; other relatives and friends.

She remains lie in state at Chapel 1 of La Funeraria Paz Asuncion, Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on November 26, 2011 at La Funeraria Paz Crematory at Ortiz St., after which her ashes will be brought to the family residence in Pasig City.

"Even when I walk
through a dark valley, I feel no harm.
For you are at my side, your rod
and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Cristina Almojuela Burce

Cristina Almojuela-Burce, 92, of Pandan, Catanduanes and Tabaco City, Albay, died with her family beside her at Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland on 10 November 2011.

Her body will lie in state at the Pastoral Center of the St. John the Baptist Parish Church in Tabaco City starting 21 November 2011. Interment will be on Friday, 25 November 2011, at 9:00 AM.

She is survived by her 12 children, namely **Maribel Magno, Cielo Lagman, Nieva Lucia, Jose Abelardo Burce, Alex Burce, Allan Burce, Eloisa Corcoran, Mildred Santos, Anton Burce, Arthur Burce, Mari Cris Hildebrandt,** and **Agnes Carranza** and their spouses; 26 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, former Provincial Fiscal of Albay and Sorsogon, Abelardo B. Burce.

Her final days were spent with her family and loved ones, all of whom she inspired by her life of deep spirituality, unfailing optimism and loving kindness.

Atty. Silvestre Garfin y Villafuerte

(Labo, Camarines Norte and Naga City)

Former Chief Legal Counsel
of National Telecommunications Commission
National Office, Quezon City

Went back to the arms
of the Lord to answer
His call on November 18, 2011
at the age of 75.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Imperial, Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City.
Interment will be on November 26, 2011, Saturday at Sto. Niño Memorial Park after the mass at 2:00 PM, Our Lady of Peñafrancia Basilica Minore, Naga City.

His wife, Zenia Acerva (Ikot)
son & Angelo Jose (Pepper)
daughters Daryl Dawn (Doo Doo)
Cherish Noelle (Ducky)

request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"For I am being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

DOM BERNARDO MA. PEREZ, O.S.B.

(RODRIGO "BOBBY" D. PEREZ, III)

passed to the Lord on November 18, 2011
at the age of 78.

His brothers Spanky with his wife Dolly Perez,
His sister Peggy Ang with her husband Leonito Fernandez
together with his nieces, nephews, grandchildren, grandnieces
and grandnephews and nieces
join the Benedictine Community in requesting prayers
for the eternal repose of his soul.

† His remains will be in state at the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat (San Beda College) Mendiola, Manila.

† Only masses will be celebrated at the Abbey Church at 8 pm.

† Funeral mass will be at 9 am on Wednesday November 23, 2011 to be followed by cremation and interment.

† In lieu of flowers, donations to the San Beda College Benedictine Educational Foundation, Inc. will be appreciated.

Suscipe me, Domine, secundum eloquium tuum et vivam;
Et non confundas me ab exspectatione mea. – Ps. 118, v. 116

PAX

DOM BERNARDO MA. PEREZ, OSB
(Rodrigo D. Perez, III)

A monk of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Manila, strengthened by the sacraments, died on November 19, 2011 at the age of seventy eight in the 60th year of his monastic profession and in the 42nd year of his priestly ordination.

The Rt. Rev. Tarcisio Ma. H. Narvios, OSB, Abbot, and the monks of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, his brothers and sisters, Enrique (Spanky) and Dolly Quimbo, and Veronica (Jing-jing) and Luis Fernandez, nieces, nephews, grandnephews, grandnieces, and other relatives request their friends to join them in their prayers for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat (San Beda College), Mendiola, Manila.

The Office for the Dead will be celebrated for him on November 21 and 22, 2011.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday November 23, 2011 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the Abbey Church. After which his remains will be cremated at the Arlington Memorial Chapels Crematorium, Antonio Avenue, Quezon City. His ashes will be deposited at the Abbey Cemetery.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the San Beda College Benedictine Educational Foundation, Inc. (SBCBEEF) will be appreciated.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." **(2 Timothy 4)**

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HONDA

NAPOLEON L. Maranan, an outstanding AIM alumnus, was appointed chair of AIM in February 2011. He is a member of HBH Corp '73. He is CEO of Smart Communications.

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business features editor Marge Quimpo-Espiritu

AIM alumni leaders gather for big powwow

DISTINGUISHED alumni of the Asian Institute of Management receive their corporate excellence tomorrow, Nov. 22, to organize themselves as a major consultative body for AIM affairs.

Smart Communications CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, chair of the AIM Board of Trustees, said the Council of AIM Alumni Leaders will be formally launched during the ceremony.

AIM B3 »

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Transition to democracy: the Philippine experience

THE PHILIPPINES went through its transition from a dictatorship to an open democratic society in 1986. The road of transition has not been easy; it has not been short.

It is important to acknowledge the difficulties and the long time horizon needed for the required reforms to take root and finally make a positive difference.

Immediate aftermath of a dictatorship

While the major forces behind the "people power" revolution were united by their revulsion of a dictatorship and their commitment to democracy, immediately below these headline concepts lay the deep cleavages and which nonetheless played a key role in the final stage of the "people power" revolution, instead of a "split" and proving crucial. It made several serious attempts at "military adventurism."

In various other sectors, many important institutions were left in a failed, profoundly weak state. Six state financial institutions were bankrupt and in various need of rehabilitation. Virtually all segments of the economy were overregulated and tied up in bureaucratic knots. The media, long suppressed, in the flush of the new freedom they enjoyed, ventured on rights and privileges without the corresponding exercise from a sense of duty and social responsibility.

The underlying culture to society had been seriously flawed after a couple of decades of dictatorship. After the euphoria of bringing back the trappings of a democratic state had died down, distrust of government was widespread; suspicion of wrongdoing in public offices was high; moreover, even with the "new people" putting into government positions, more than enough instances to despair the distrust and subsumption the suspicion.

Moreover, the economy was left in a poor, weak state. Public debt was high and rising. Foreign debt felt like a millstone around the neck of the economy. Infrastructure had been left in a state of disrepair and was woefully inadequate. Many assets were in government hands, and most of those were in an unproductive condition, all to left to us (while the servicing of the debts behind those assets had to continue.)

The road of transition

A generally shared sentiment prior to democracy preceded the common thread behind all the many initiatives under the transition. This provided the fundamental framework for all the strategies and major policies that the transition government would pursue in order to do this. In the case of the Philippines, we had the blessing of an icon of democracy who headed the transition government, and who was very broadly trusted: President Cory Aquino, who had her mind and heart in the right place. In an open democratic society however, there were more than a few loud critics, who could now use the free press to vociferate their criticisms openly (and in more than enough instances, irresponsibly).

As in the political sector, democracy meant deep respect and due observance of the rule of law. A new Constitution had to be written and ratified in a plebiscite. Consequently, all the branches of government—the executive, legislative and judicial—derived their power and legitimacy under that Constitution, which guaranteed freedom of the press and a whole number and set of human rights. Decentralization of executive and legislative power was secured through the effective operationalization of local autonomy.

As in the economic sector, democracy meant liberalization and the opening up of the economy. Trade and tariff reforms were introduced, removing virtually all quantitative restrictions on imports and radically slashing down protective tariffs. All unnecessary controls and regulations on foreign exchange management of the economy. Privatization of a significant percentage of assets under government control was pursued. The few state financial institutions that had to remain in government hands were rehabilitated. Public finances were put in order, with the public deficits eventually turned into (at least a temporary) surplus. Foreign debt was restructured and gradually paid under an internationally sponsored and supported program. A free enterprise regime was made to flourish (the large debt of the private sector was restructured under government negotiated terms and conditions with foreign creditors, with virtually all of the gains accruing to the business sector). The Philippine economy was able to eventually recover the world's financial markets.

As in the social sphere, democracy meant infuse participation. Nongovernmental organizations were encouraged and allowed to proliferate. Civil society was made to thrive without government pulling the strings behind it. A land reform law was decreed; this broke up large landholdings for distribution to the former tillers, with due compensation to the previous landowners. Universal education up to high school was provided for. Media were given free rein to help shape public opinion and to help shape the formulation of official government actions and programs.

All the above strategic initiatives, which helped give flesh and substance to democracy were during the early years of transition (1986-1992), were undertaken after considerable debate, and often with reasonable delay.

Moreover, their execution was far from fault-free; and those failings were all too often magnified and exaggerated by sensationalists (on the part of opposition politicians and the media). Nonetheless, under the impetus of the democratic ideal, the basic strategic directions were clearly set and proactively pursued.

Fundamental challenges

a) Free presidencies have since succeeded the initial transition presidency (of Cory Aquino, 1986-1992). Fidel Ramos was elected in 1992 and served a full term until 1998. Erap Estrada was elected in 1998 and served up to early 2001 (he was removed/ousted, first during an impeachment proceeding (congress), then by a serious bout of people power). Gloria Arroyo became president in 2001 and was elected to a term of her own in 2004. Benigno Aquino III was elected in 2010. The Constitutionally mandated process of succession through election (as in the case of Arroyo, by succession on the part of the vice president) has been faithfully observed: it holds entrenched.

b) All the basic strategic directions, already laid down and set forth during the initial period of transition, have largely been followed by all the succeeding presidencies. Nonetheless, fundamental challenges continue: corruption has been a perennial issue (it never seems to go away and threatens the democratic space). One issue keeps getting highlighted: the inadequacy of institutions have remained weak, often overly constrained by limited resources and other bureaucratic rules and regulations; infrastructure and public services continue being woefully inadequate; poor governance remains a challenge at all levels. Competitive rankings in competitiveness, corruption, ease of doing business, and corporate governance show the Philippines at the bottom quartile in Asia and the world.

The transition from a dictatorship in a democracy over 20 years, has certainly brought the Philippines forward. It has enjoyed enormous gains from following certain strategic directions of the transition, inspired by the ideals of democracy. But even after 25 years of pursuing the same strategic directions, the vestiges of corruption, bad governance and a flawed civic culture continue to present enormous challenges, which the Philippines must now confront.

Reflections on the road ahead

Democracy was very clear strategic directions, but these directions are not enough. They need to be substantiated by an equally clear set of strategic priorities, which need to be pursued vigorously and systematically every 6 or so years. These priorities need to be translated into, and concretized by a portfolio of initiatives, each of which should have incentives and targets of performance every year within each 6-year period. In this manner, we bring democracy from its ideal heights and bring it to bear upon the performances we need to deliver every year, and the targets we need to meet every year, at term every quarter of each year. Democracy imposes a concrete, specific, time-bound discipline of performance.

Pitfalls/issues. The deep-seated vestiges of corruption, bad governance and a flawed civic culture would need to be confronted. We as has to be had at their roots. We can do so by instilling and constantly reaffirming a culture of good governance and responsible citizenship. This may have to be done into national governmental agency or a time; and one local government unit at a time. It also has to be complemented by infusing that culture at all levels of the level of every institution (e.g. the families, the schools, the business enterprises) and of every civil society organizations. In the end, that culture must permeate every sphere in the individual. After all, democracy is by the people, for the people, and of the people. It has to start with and end with individuals and all the institutions they forge and set up.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. This was lifted from a speech delivered by the author during a recent International Forum in Istanbul organized by the Center for International Private Enterprise. The author is chair of Institute of Corporate Directors, and the MAP Management Man of the Year 2009 awardee. Feedback at mapi@globelines.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.map.org.ph)

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'Come Visit My Philippines' campaign begins

By Jessica Lee Batoy
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS) inspiration from Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. and his statement "believe in the beauty of your country...your destiny is only from the outside," brothers made of coco fiber product Bonito Buddha and photographer Alex Bajico started posting photographs they took in the Philippines on their respective Facebook accounts to share the beauty of the country.

With the positive and encouraging comments that they received, another friend, Frances Molina, decided that they put up a Facebook page where people can see and also share the beauty of the country using the social networking site.

In their Facebook page, the group said they also aimed to start a new Philippine tourism campaign by posting photos of their beautiful country and using the tag phrase, "Come Visit My Philippines" (CVMP).

The page said the group "targeted to get the attention of the Filipinos on Facebook. If every one of the 25 million Filipinos on Facebook would invite one friend to visit the Philippines, then Philippine tourism would get the boost it needs."

Now, the administrators of the page include Bonito, Alex, Francis, Francis Bhagha Hilchen Calliario, Gilbert Henrylon, Melo Montes, Jay Jesus Bautista, Raphael Mejia Salvaga, Marlon Suarez and Miguel Simmonds. The group was last updated on Sept. 20, 2011.

The group is open to all who want to see and share photos on the beauty of the Philippines.

In his keynote speech during the opening also "Launch" of the 22nd Ad Congress held last 14-20 at the Cardiac Wilderness Complex (CWC) in Pili, Camarines Sur, Jimenez cited the group of Bonito et al. for creating the Facebook site as a fine example of a sound and swift resource that could be of great help in promoting Philippine tourism.

He said that since platforms have changed in the new landscape in the ad industry with the emergence of new technologies, the tourism secretary must be able to tap these social networking sites to promote the country.

Jimenez said (CVMP) has already united some 25,000 members here and all over the world that aim to transform into legitimate Tourism some 25 million Filipinos on Facebook, starting the same initiative, "he said.

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AIM alumni leaders . . .

Pretapaga B5

It will function as a major consultative body for the institute and engage the barrio in economic information dissemination and active involvement in the programs being pursued by the school, he said.

Meanwhile, six outstanding AIM alumnus, was appointed dean of AIM in February 2011. He became the 4th dean of AIM (Class '77).

"We're in the future to really step up and be a part of AIM's strategic phase of evolution. The alumni should be the driving force because they are the major stakeholders of the school," he said. The breakfast affair sponsored by the Alumni Association of AIM (AAAIM) Philippine Chapter will be held at the BOV Hall on the third floor of the AIM Conference Center in Makati City.

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) is a pioneer in international management education in Asia. It is committed to making a difference in promoting the sustainable development of Asian societies by developing profound, entrepreneurial, and socially responsible leaders and managers.

AIM was established in 1968 in partnership with Harvard Business School, the Ford Foundation, and investments of the 40 top multinational companies. Today, AIM is one of the leading graduate schools of management in the region.

AIM trains business executives, government and civil society leaders to manage the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly integrating Asian region.

Armed with a clear understanding of how to do business in Asia, our more than 38,000 graduates at 70-plus countries have made their mark at the top of the world's leading companies and organizations.

AIM is the first school in Southeast Asia to achieve accreditation from the US-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). It is also the highest ranked by deans, faculty, and other thought leaders.

The Alumni Association of AIM Inc. (Philippine Chapter) was established in 1981 to promote the educational objectives of the Asian Institute of Management, serve as a vehicle for the alumni to maintain and enhance its members, and contribute to the economic development of Asia, foster camaraderie among its members, among others.

As it approaches its 29th year, the AAAIM has been recognized as the alumni base even beyond the confines of the campus of the school. AAAIM, through the Alumni Relations Office of AIM, supports significant AIM initiatives such as excellence and professional support. AIM found building, AIM events, and the Alumni Fundraising campaign for scholarships, infrastructure, research and development, and faculty development.

AIM is a pioneer in international management education in Asia. It is committed to making a difference

No. 1 among Asian business schools

Bernardo Ombao Jr., AAAIM chair, cited the Aspen Institute's 2011-2012 edition of Beyond Grey Pinstripes, a ranking survey of business schools, which ranked the AIM MBA program No. 1 among Asian business schools. This is based on their findings that still has demonstrated significant leadership in equipping future business leaders with the vision and knowledge necessary to integrate corporate profitability with social value. AIM has also maintained its business accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business or AACSB International. AIM and is the only AACSB accredited b-school in the Philippines.

AIM alumni all over the world are recognized as distinguished leaders and renowned professionals. AIM's legacy of proven leadership is evident in the notable number of alumni who, through the years, have held key positions in transforming businesses, industries, economies and societies. To date, some 30,000 degree and nondegree AIM alumni are driving forces behind change and progress. AIM alumni are likewise making history at AIM. We have been accorded major participation in AIM's highest level of governance through seats in the Board of Trustees. There are now 7 alumni out of the 31 trustees where there was none as late as 2005.

Not the first time, they have appointed an alumnus. Magdiwa L. Hamoranto (MBA 1973), as AIM's dean. The chair of the AAAIM and the Federation of AIM Alumni Associations (FAIM) now sit in the Board of Trustees. The council leadership is open the AIM alumni.

Interested AIM alumni may contact the AIM Alumni Relations Office at aimalumni@aim.edu or call 892-4011 loc. 1222.

E-copy Corp. - A total office solutions provider

E-copy Corp. Japan office document solutions at Robot Pizza in Mega Fashion, Makati City.

'Make products that others want to imitate' – these are the words of Sharp founder Tokuji Hayakawa. Ever since the company's establishment nearly 100 years ago in 1912, the spirit of these words, passed down from generation to generation, has been the guiding force behind Sharp's development of industry and world-first products.

To catch up with the times, Sharp has further diversified its products, its business to increase activity in Manila, Philippines, Sharp is ever present in the office systems, incorporating technology into the workflow.

For over 30 years now, Sharp copiers continue to serve its purpose in the Philippines. It has introduced multi-function products (MFP) that work as a network device that can print, scan, copy and fax, all of which are helping businesses improve their document quality and productivity – this was made possible by E-copy Corporation, being the exclusive distributor of Sharp MFPs in the country.

> ***I have always believed in Sharp's commitment to quality and excellence. With the brand's almost four decades of experience in the document products business, it has dedicated itself to delivering superior document solutions to businesses around the world.***

This is the reason why Bonifacio Ta, President of E-copy Corporation, through the partnership of Sapro Machinery Corp., is be the exclusive distributor of Sharp MFP for the Philippine market.

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In today's competitive business environment, every organization – from SOHO businesses to the large corporations possess the advantage of streamlined workflow, optimized productivity and reduced costs. That's why E-copy Corp. in close cooperation with Sharp, has developed an extensive lineup of innovative document systems and solutions that are fully geared to securely copy, print, scan, fax, manage and share information to ensure your company's security.

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Enriching the lives of consumers with products and services that bring added value

E-copy Corp. and Sharp technology touch every aspect – not only of the business world but the "common lot" in the country.

Examples is the Quezon City government wherein both our efficient, marriage certificates, etc. can be obtained in five minutes. Thanks to the technology and system put to and applied by E-copy and Sharp's technology.

And for a business to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of its consumers, one has to innovate, get out there and know what his clients truly want. That is how products such as Innovative Display Panel, Book Binder and Portable Printers have been introduced to perfectly correspond with the needs of the Philippine market. Although, admittedly, according to Andy Tan, E-copy Corp.'s Vice President, "it is not enough to have the best products, it is also important to provide customer satisfaction and the kind of service that is at par with excellence". This is how Mr. Andy Tan sees how business solutions should be:

One of E-copy's products: Sharp portable flash drives that can store photos, videos, music files and more.

Secure, innovative business solutions keep Sharp document systems a step ahead

E-copy Corp. distinguishes itself from other office solutions companies by integrating unique devices and innovative technologies. Catering to its vision, E-copy Corp also offers business efficiency and affordable solutions that cater to every business needs such as Document Management, Web-based Automation and Fax Automation. These innovative business solutions enable organizations to fully utilize Sharp's technology and achieve its efficiency, productivity and environmental friendliness.

Continuing its quest to support organizations to achieve business efficiency and at the same time energizing the need to manage and control IT infrastructure cost, E-copy, in partnership with FUJITSU launched early this year Applicaria Organica, a Document Management Solution delivered through Cloud Computing and one of the first local Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions offered in the Philippines.

Apart from these solutions, E-copy Corp. also provides data center and hosting services, document digitization and managed IT services. Solutions, Fax Solutions, Cloud Computing in partnership with FUJITSU Data Services and Service Bureau.

Contact E-copy Corp. at 525-4911 or visit their website at www.e-copy.com.ph. E-copy has 84 authorized dealers and outlets nationwide.

E-copy Corp.'s head office and showroom located in Makati (Ayala).

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BUSINESS Monday

The Method Producer

By John Aguilar
Contributor

ACCORDING to Wikipedia, Method acting is a phrase that loosely refers to a family of techniques used by actors to create in themselves the thoughts and emotions of their characters, so as to develop lifelike performances.

Method actors are often characterized as immersing themselves to the fullest degree in the extent that they continue to portray their characters even when they are off-camera for the duration of a project.

Running my independent television company Brandfish Productions Inc. gave me two things—the freedom to do anything I want, and the creative push to come up with new ideas and business models for TV shows.

I'd like to share with you a way of producing TV shows which I have come to call Method Producing.

Method Producing

Method Producing is an extreme immersion and participation in the world or industry that your TV show revolves in.

I realized that to captivate and inspire your audience, you have to be in tune with the world or industry that your show revolves in. I don't dance.

So to get me thinking. To truly succeed as an independent producer, we had to create a niche market—a blue ocean. Red seas are increasingly overcrowded by our competitors. We also had to know the industry of our show from the inside out to be believable and to strengthen our credibility.

Our TV show Philippine Realty TV hosted by Isabel Mercado and Angel Jacob, rides now on its seventh season, is ours to prove. What did we have to do for the show? If my present self could tell myself back then the things we would do to attain the success that we have today, I would have said to my present self that I was crazy.

THE AUTHOR with Franchise TV host Ina Lilosa

I noticed how many real-estate ads there were but no TV show

Beginning

It all began one day as I was going through the papers. I noticed how many real estate ads there were and realized that there wasn't really a TV show that catered to the real estate industry to penetrate.

So the idea for a real estate TV show started to form. I talked the matter at the office to see if an all real estate ads and articles for rewards. On a fusion trip to Canada in 2007 with just the germ of the idea for the show, I had conducted informal surveys on cabbies and fellow Pinoys about their thoughts on a real estate TV show that targeted them as overseas Filipinos who would eventually return and reinvest back to the Philippines.

Back in Manila, we held meetings and presentations with major real estate developers and presented the show.

So in 2009 we launched Philippine Realty TV, "the country's first real estate TV show for a local and global Filipino."

Our promise was to feature "the best in Philippine real estate," showcasing the projects of real estate developers, covering real estate events, and featuring different industry players and suppliers.

Midway through the show's second season a crazy idea hit: What if I build my first house on the TV show? Being the business owner of a small independent company with no access to any good grand ideas, we began production and construction for Project: First House and built the very first house set up from scratch from the ground up in real time on Philippine television. It was a breakthrough for us and an educational viewing experience for the TV audience as we showed everything we went through—from looking for and purchasing the lot, moving the ground, designing with the architect, up to eventually building and furnishing the house.

All of a sudden, we were no longer just featuring real estate projects or covering real estate events. We were actually building projects of our own on the show. Since Project: First Home, we've been building other concept houses on the show, and we are now a proud and active participant in the real estate industry, serving the role of advisor and helping to our audience the latest green building materials and technologies that are being used today. It has come to the point that some real estate developers have even decided to use certain suppliers that we've worked with and featured on the show.

Licensed broker

The other things I did as a method producer to learn more about the industry was reviewing for and passing the real estate broker's licensure exam. So I am now a licensed, accredited real estate broker.

Now, with our latest TV show Franchise TV (FTV) hosted by Ina Lilosa, we methods on yet another method producing journey. The concept is simple: Aside from featuring different franchise concepts, what if we could run franchise businesses on FTV and show people the ins and outs of acquiring and running a franchise business from the perspective of a franchisee?

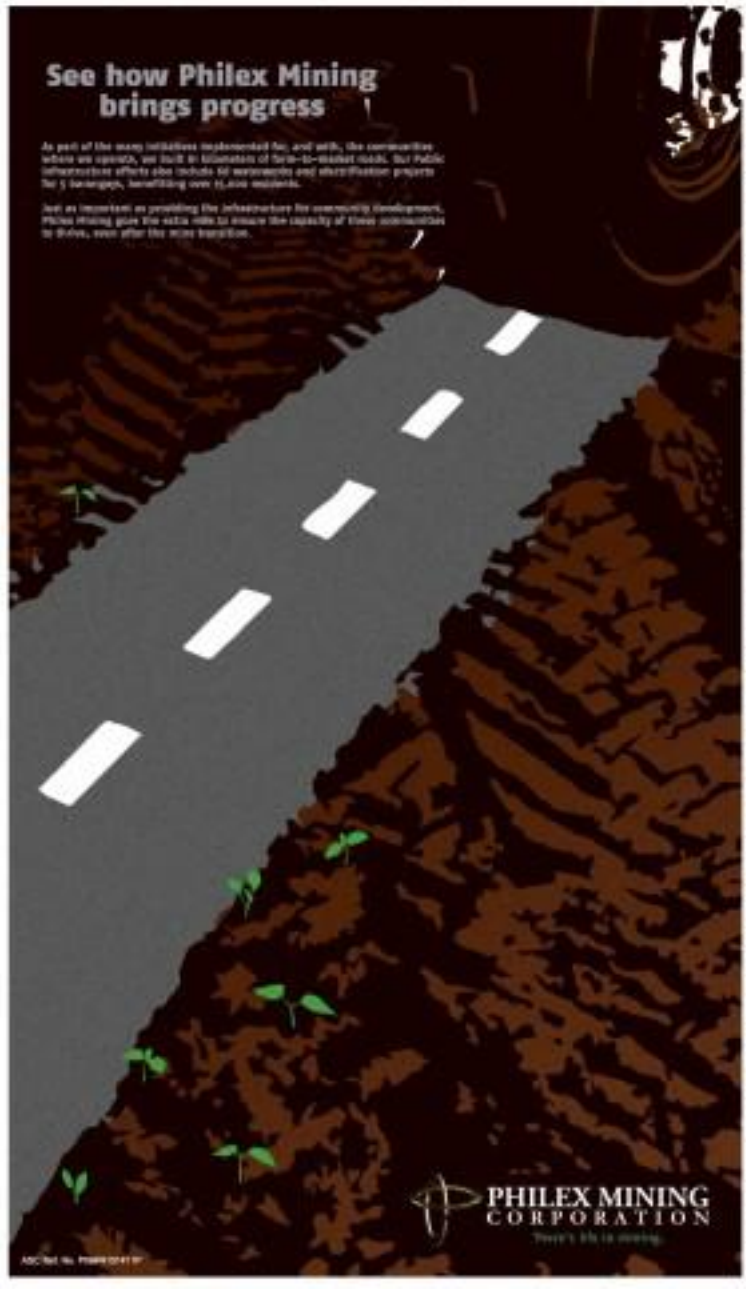
Getting Biralot

As of this writing we have just acquired a franchise for the ultimate Filipino food experience—Biralot. We have just finished our theoretical and practical training as a Biralot franchisee. So as all Biralot franchisees are required to do, I was literally part of the kitchen crew, learned how to cook Biralot's Tapsapalengke and other Pinoy-lutin, learned how to wrap the food in banana leaves, and learned the ins and outs of the kitchen. This is all important training because, I don't cook.

We will be doing all this real estate in the coming months and soon, all in preparation for a number of franchise businesses we will acquire and run on Franchise TV. So yes, we have a lot riding on the show and on the franchise industry, which is exactly the way we like it.

That's Method Producing.

Philippine Realty TV airs Sundays 9:30 p.m. with replays Saturdays 10 a.m. and Sundays 1:8 a.m. on ANC; and Sundays 6:30 a.m. on Studio 23. Franchise TV airs Saturdays 9 p.m. with replays Saturdays 10:30 a.m. and Sundays 9:30 a.m. on ANC.

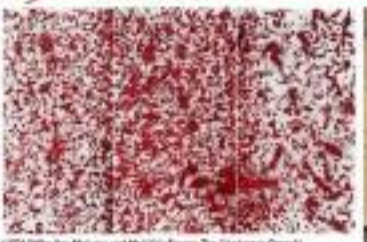


LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

The triumph of painting in Signature international art awards

Rodel Tapaya's magnificent mural 'Baston ni Kabunian, Bilang pero Di Mabilang' wins grand prize

"THE WATER Dinner," by Shoba Chhabdia



"YOU/Who Are My Love and My Life's Enemy, Too," by Ivanna Quevedo

"LIMA Inhabitant," by Ay-Tjoe Christine (in collaboration with Dedon Interiors)

The triumph of painting in Signature international art awards

By Lito B. Zulueta

THE VICTORY of young Filipino artist Rodel Tapaya in the Signature Art Prize international contest in Singapore last Thursday sends a clear message: Painting is back, and if Conceptualism has not exactly converted to welcome, it can really get boring and predictable sometimes.

Tapaya's magnificent mural, "Warrior in Kalinaman, Bilang-pawi Di'Pahilang" (Stuff of Kalinaman, Numbered but Cannot Be Counted), by Rodel Tapaya

Tapaya magnificent mural, "Warrior in Kalinaman, Bilang-pawi Di'Pahilang" (Stuff of Kalinaman, Numbered but Cannot Be Counted), by Rodel Tapaya, won the Grand Prize in the triennial art prize, organized by Singapore Art Museum and funded by Asia-Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation of Tiger Beer.

It landed 14 other mostly large-scale artworks from 34 other countries across the Asia-Pacific. The short list of finalists had been selected from 130 works which were nominated from 29 countries by art experts.

With its multiple narratives and diverse allegorical references, the stunning mural-sized painting embodies a vibrant strain in contemporary art from the Asia-Pacific region," the international jury said. "While Tapaya does not shy away from drawing on the folklore of his native region, his is neither creative nor self-victimizing practice. The artist is under-iron in his use of the Philippine mural tradition as well as Latin American magical realism and South-East Asian shadow puppetry."

Drawing on his skills at draftsmanship, composition and color, Tapaya deftly turns diverse mythologies and folklore on issues in order to constitute a visual narrative on nature and its resilience, and why man can ignore this only at his peril.

Tapaya's work continues ruthless artistry and significant content. He does not balk at making grand statements or own painting our moral lessons. He does not shirk from cultural issues. Compared with him, Conceptualism is much flawed. Always empty on the left, devoid of love and self-disparagement. Conceptualism is monotonous and dull. It's even more unappealing to art.

Key barometer

Of course, some of the above is hyperbole, but if there's one thing that the international jury is signaling with Tapaya's victory, it's that painting remains the key barometer of real artistry. Against a slew of self-conscious video and photographic works, Tapaya's acrylic-on-canvas mural prevailed. The old verities have been reestablished; they remain perennial in the genre.

The message is more than buttressed when another painting, Aida Makoto's 300 x 700-in. acrylic-on-canvas "Ash Color Mountains," won one of the three Jury Prizes. Perfectly melding painting craftsmanship and artistic contemporaneity, the mural takes from the traditional Japanese landscape genre known as sumi-e in which the mountain is presented in all its misty and dreamy loveliness. This is the sight from afar as one approaches the work. But when one gets near, one gasps at the details of the mountain: Like pointillist dots, the mountain is made up of colored cognizant men who literally form the backbone of the roaring Japanese economy now come to an apparent standstill because of the global financial crisis.

The mountain becomes a garbage dump of white-collar workers and the detritus of daily office life—clocks, suits, computer units. The tranquil landscape transforms in to something disturbing, even terrifying. The "ash" in the title may even suggest the nuclear ash from the meltdown of several of Japan's nuclear power plants as a result of the tsunami and earthquake early this year.

Korean Kim Jongku similarly revamps or updates traditional Asian art in his "Modern Landscape," in which he uses steel powder ground from a steel pole to make calligraphic texts on a giant paper roll on the theme. The markings are caught by a three-level CCTV camera. When the images are flashed on screen, the texts become landscapes, a tranquil and serene sleight-of-hand enhanced by combining the traditional with the technological.

The other Korean finalist, Kyungah Ham, experimented with the creative process by sending messengers to North Korea in search of native embroiderers who could execute her designs which she sends digitally.

Some of the messages were intercepted by the North Korean authorities and those that managed to evade were made into embroidered works on silk. "But is what may be called as the art of the cloak and dagger. But some things get lost in translation.

Signature Art Prize 2011

BOOM: Tapaya poses in black shirt with other winners of the Signature Art Prize—the Indian Bhabu Chhavi Mit, Singaporean Michael Lee, Japanese Aida Makoto and Australian David Cross

"ASH Color Mountains," by Aida Makoto, at right, "Second-Hand City," by Michael Lee

"STATIC No. 11," by Daniel Crooks

"THE LAST Cannibal Supper," by Greg Semu

A line from a popular Korean song, "Perhaps I secretly longed for my fatherland to fall," is misspelled. The mistake itself embodying the fears of some Koreans that despite power talks between the North and South, some shadowy forces want the reunification to fail.

Other honors

Another painting that marries traditional subjects with thoughtful immediacy is Malaysian artist Ivanna Quevedo's "You Who Are My Love and My Life's Enemy, Too." A 216 x 365-in. gouache-on-rice-paper work, it was inspired by a suicide bombing in the artist's hometown.

From afar the work looks like a Mexican Expressionist work in bloody red. As one looks closer, however, the splotches of red have fine details of filigrees of flowers and fauna that symbolize wild is depths of beauty found all the horrors of the modern.

Quevedo told the Inquirer that he's a "minimum artist" and he draws from the tradition of Palestinian miniature painting to paint both a tribute to his hometown and an elegy to violent times ever.

Conceptual art, however, are not ignored as well by the Cambodian artist Vandy Rattana's suite of photographs, "Bomb Poods."

The nine photographs (39 x 181 -in each) are beautiful landscape photographs that, however, immediately belie their beauty as one realizes that these are actually unexploded ordnances. They're the artistic carved out of the earth when the American-bombed neutral Cambodia now in battle with Vietnam during the Indochinese war. One sucking in the Cambodians into the maelstrom of hate and blood.

Rattana was born in 1980 and didn't experience the bombing. He told the Inquirer he had attempted to get out details about the war from his parents, who were so

"WEEDING Whisper, Needle Country Embroidery Project," by Kyungah Ham

The triumph of painting in Signature international art awards

From page C2

scarred by the experience that they wouldn't talk about it.

But interviews with the survivors along the Cambodian border revealed the horrors of the bombing, which both American politicians and even Cambodian history textbooks do not mention. A 31 minute video documentary details the survivors and their ordeal during the war.

Taiwanese video artist Chen Chieh-jen's "Empire's Borders," a 16-minute video art in black and white, also critiques American imperialist excesses by focusing on Taiwanese women refused visa or made to go through rigid visa procedures by American consulate officials in Taipei.

Emotionless and seemingly aping the bureaucratic coldness of consular officials, the women restate their complaints in a monotone, magnifying the cold-blooded ruthlessness of a superpower that employs border control to humiliate and subjugate citizens from small and weak countries.

Stamps and cartography

In the exhibit at 1608, Tapsra's huge work is based on the silver side of the ball by Malaysian Chang Yoong Chee's "The World Is Flat," a mixed media work on which the artist uses postage stamps to sometimes a collaged map of the world that shows a history of colonialism between colonizers and the colonized.

Chang playfully but insightfully draws from the history of cartography as an imperialist practice, in one area, he shows Queen Elizabeth as she appears in various royal stamps having tea with herself, humorously portraying empire-building as a form of narcissism.

Ceramist Greg Sirma, meanwhile, appropriates Christian imagery such as the Last Supper and the Pieta to depict colonial displacement as a result of political and religious colonization.

A native Samoan born in New Zealand to parents who had converted to Mormonism, Sirma reconstructs Da Vinci's "Last Supper" to a suite of digital photographs to which he shows Jesus Pacific Islanders gathering around their last sumfood meal as the "savage" practice is now proscribed by Christian colonizers. The result is savage wit and humor.

But Christianity has its supreme moment of ecstasy and redemption as shown by Indonesian Ay Tjoe Christine in collaboration with Dedew Hamliana's in her installation "Lama Sabakhtani," in any Christian would immediately recognize, the title refers to one of the last words of Christ in Aramaic before He died on the Cross, "Father, why have you forsaken me?"

The mark involves the guillotine falling down and, in the process, the tangle of wires with brass bells attached to the machine is pulled taut and the bells jingling and jangling and emitting a cacophony.

A devout Catholic living in the biggest Islamic country in the world, Ay Tjoe seems to portray the struggle between minority faith and majority religion, as well as how persecution and suffering are made bearable and even transcendental by Christianity, which considers pain and sacrifice integral and humanity.

Old and new

The old but still relevant theme of the clash of the old and new in very traditional Asian societies is poignantly rendered by Vietnamese Bui Cong Khanh's "The Bad Mood," a series of photographs in which people from the artist's old neighborhood in Saigon pose before a charcoal-on-paper backdrop of the village, set to be demolished to give way to urban development. The result is a moving elegy to one's past as well as a defiant revival of memory banished by modernization.

Singaporean Michael Lee's "Second Hand City," which won the People's Choice prize, has some of the nostalgia of Cong Khanh's work, his series of digital prints on archival paper is really less of a homage to lost buildings (which he anthromorphizes by giving them names such as "Primo Levi" and "Uncon Rasheed"), but more of a record of the debate between conservation and progress.

Contemplation had its share of triumph, especially in Australian Imant Cronks' brilliant video work, "Static No. 12 (look different in Movement)," in which the artist seeks to capture time through spatial means by shooting like bounded, elongated floor the very graceful movements of an old man doing tai-chi. But the work again appears to contrast old and new in Asian societies.

Indian artist Jhelum Chhabildas's Joey Prize-winning work, "The Water Diviner," also provocatively and hauntingly tackles the struggle between divine past and debased present in her site-specific installation.

The work was originally installed at the underground swimming pool of the Nehru Delhi public library, which the artist had discovered as holding but a repository of unorganized books and rubbish. After getting the approval of local authorities she transformed the area into a "sub-aquatic environment" where library visitors would gather, rest or reflect on the installation, in which she makes references to India's over-literature and its origins from great rivers (the library is near the Yamuna river, considered by the Hindus as sacred like the Ganges) through the jungle-themed videos of moving stills of an elephant, again considered sacred by the Hindus, swimming underwater.

Around are woven bundles and bundles of books from the library and light boxes showing images from episodes from Indian epics and sacred books (palagrams) with contemporary images of rivers and bodies of water despoiled by greed and industrialization.

Tapsra's work is now on exhibit along with those of the 14 other finalists until March 4, 2012, at the Singapore Art Museum (www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/signatureprize).

"WORLD Landscape," by Bui Cong Khanh

"SOMB Panels," by Wendy Rattana

"THE WORLD Is Flat," by Chang Yoong Chee

"THE PAST Moved," by Bui Cong Khanh

"EMPIRE'S Borders" I, by Chen Chieh-jen

"TIME," by Yang Xinguang

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Barrioquinto, Consorio, Pagaduan at West

THIS NOVEMBER, West Gallery gives the spotlight to artist Andrea Barrioquinto, who, in turn, decides to share it with two promising artists.

On view until Dec. 3, Barrioquinto's "Shadow Dances" has Japanese characters figuring prominently in his canvas. "My concept is to give life to the samurai warriors, geisha and other elements found in Japanese art. This makes my canvas more lively and animated."

To create a three-dimensional effect, Barrioquinto painted on wood before placing it over a canvas, and putting one painted canvas over another. "I utilized 'accidental art' to get my intended result, merging two artworks to create a singular dynamic expression," he said. His earlier works focused on portraits with different patterns and overlapping images.

"I wanted to experiment on different approaches in materials using my current style because of its great potential... Nothing much has changed in terms of theme and subject matter. What I did was to change my composition by flooding the portrait with Japanese prints and designs. This created a comic-like effect on the painting."

For this exhibit, Barrioquinto admits he and his two guest artists, Ian Consorio and Ted Pagaduan, have different aims on showcasing their unique approaches to art-making. His works can be viewed in the main gallery while Consorio and Pagaduan occupy the smaller galleries. They have decided to house their self-portraits in Gallery 4.

"I have chosen them because they are talented artists, and they have the potential to make a name for themselves if given the proper exposure. Both of them are products of my alma mater (University of Santo Tomas)," he explained.

Consorio's "Latinoman Hunter" focuses on individual characters and personalities reflected as animated objects. Her work depicts animalistic behaviors demonstrated during everyday encounters with acquaintances.

Pagaduan's "I Bridged Last 666" has a pandemic surrealist artistic theme. His works tackle autobiogaes, claims by angst against dogma and false beliefs. One of his paintings, "Precious," has a semi-nude main subject.

Barrioquinto believes that, as an artist, the road to expressing one's ideas should be limitless. "Every show is a learning experience on fresh, new ideas overflow once again for my next show. I take some ideas from my past shows which I modify to create something new. That's why if you look at my old and new paintings, you'll find some concepts I've done before. However, there are some instances I decide to create something new which I haven't done before, leading me to garner a wide array of styles throughout my artistic career."

West Gallery is at Mary Sawyer InterCoda, 1944 West Ave., Quezon City; tel. 4118333, 4119333; visit www.westgallery.org.

"IF LOOKS Could Kill," by Andrea Barrioquinto

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Japanese danseur featured in BP's 'Sleeping Beauty'

NOBUO Fujino

Nobuo Fujino is a principal dancer of the Hong Kong Ballet and was formerly a senior artist of the Australian Ballet. It's his first time to perform in Manila

By Walter Ang
Contributor

JAPANESE BALLET danseur Nobuo Fujino will play Prince Desire in Ballet Philippines' staging of "The Sleeping Beauty" this December. He alternates with BP principal dancer Jean-Marc Cordero.

BP principal dancers Carlos Aden, Candice Aden and Katherine Trofeo alternate as Princess Aurora, who is cursed as a baby to die. However, good fairies soften the curse and replace death with a long, deep sleep, which will end with the kiss of true love.

Fujino will perform in only two performances. He will partner Candice Aden, 2011 USA International Ballet Competition silver medalist, in the Dec. 2 fund-raising gala for the benefit of the Nemelia Amadore Dance Scholarship Fund.

Amadore, UCF Dance School director, passed away on Sept. 24. He had been with Ballet Philippines for over 30 years, mentoring hundreds of dancers.

This is Fujino's first time to perform in the Philippines. He is a principal dancer of the Hong Kong Ballet and was formerly a senior artist of the Australian Ballet.

Fujino has portrayed roles such as the Prince in "Cinderella," "The Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker," allsorts in "Giselle," Solor in "La Bayadère."

He had been performing the role of the Prince from "The Sleeping Beauty" when he was promoted to principal dancer for Hong Kong Ballet.

"Technically, it is always challenging to work through all partnering and solos in pure classical style," he says.

Cordero became the first Filipino male to reach the semifinals at the 2010 USA International Ballet Competition (noted as the Olympics of ballet), and won first prize in a Lead Role in a Russian Ballet performance category at the 2011 Russia International Ballet Competition (RIBC).

He partnered Candice Aden at the 2011 RIBC. They both have been invited by the artistic director of Chelyabinsk State Academy Opera and Ballet Theater to perform lead roles in a full-length production next year.

He won the 2010 Gawad Buhay! Outstanding Male Lead Performer in a Modern Dance Production for his work in BP's "Cenacolous Dance."

He's moved up the ranks in BP and has performed to all of BP's productions, including principal roles in "La Revolucion Filipina," "Coppelia," "The Nutcracker," "Swan Lake," "Don Quixote"—a long way from when he started ballet training at the late age of 16, just to pass the time while waiting for his girlfriend Candice.

JUN MEDE D3

11-year-old pianist Misha Romero shows strengths of homeschooling

By Pablo A. Tariman

MISHA ROMANO will debut at the UP Bahay Kalayaan Instrument Concert Series on Nov. 26, 5 p.m.

He will perform works by Chopin, Debussy, Beethoven, Clementi and the Rondo D Major Concerto with his sister, Michele, on the second piano. Michele herself was a Kanlaon prizewinner at age 11.

Misha is from the artistically inclined Romano family of Dipolog City. The patriarch, Didi, is a painter who used to work with the Visual Arts Department of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in the 1980s.

When I visited the Romano family in the Gatchi district of Dipolog years ago, my interview was drawn to the then 8-year-old Misha who played the Clementi sonatina with a mature and confident touch.

Misha grew up with a brother and sister who are piano teachers. Sister Michele recalls that at age one year and eight months, when Misha could barely reach the piano keys, everyone was surprised to see him sprawling up to play the Jingle Bells Theme.

ROMANO family portrait. Misha with father Didi, mother Marivic, siblings Dindi and Miracle

MISHA Romano has been homeschooled since age four but was already playing simple pieces by ear even before that.

MISHA Romano with his first vacation: Cebu Miracle

Life forces her friend almost daily to do the math sum.

At that age, he loved to name his eldest siblings playing Tchaikovsky and Gershwin concertos, surprisingly on the right octaves.

Misha's mother Marivina recalls that during her pregnancy, and even in his first three years, her two grown-up children were then learning Tchaikovsky and Beethoven sonatas and sonatas. So that was the music heard in the house the whole day.

The family was further surprised that Misha could give the right pitch of the sounds he heard around him.

Misha started his first lessons at age four, but he was already playing simple pieces by ear even before that. He also learned to read and memorize notes relatively fast.

Misha learned and memorized the Rondo Concerto within a few months. He is now studying Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 26 in D Minor, K. 466.

His first public performances was in 2008 at his sister's annual students' recital. As Mrs. Cecilia, Misha displayed ease and comfort on the stage without any trace of stage fright.

Indeed, Misha's first four years in formal music training was quite amazing since he was able to learn a concerto within that span of time.

Before he reached eight, Misha could already play both the violin and the piano like his sister.

People say relatives don't make good teachers.

"For me it's a privilege," says Michele. "I find it advantageous for Misha that we are related and living in the same house since it allows me to observe his progress closely and constantly."

Illustrious says she encouraged all her children to take to music because "even if one has created from one's profession, the music does not stop."

"The benefits are yet in learning and playing classic music are evident and scientifically proven," she adds. "Music stimulates the other side of the brain, which academics cannot do. We tried to expose them in every way we could. When the eldest siblings were three and four years old, we did not have a piano then but Michele was already composing short songs. We made a homemade xylophone in two octaves, and Rod was taken they started playing music using piano books but playing on Tatoshi's lessons. We did not have to force them. They were motivated (but not to coerce)."

Another big surprise in the Romano family is that all the three siblings are homeschooled, with the elder brother and sister finishing college courses by correspondence.

Illustrious says the advantage of homeschooling "We could be together all the time. They could take their lessons with them when we travel. We are able to monitor their activities. Beyond to worry about transport and lunch allowance, no unnecessary assignments and unproductive projects. We could schedule our activities at our own pace."

"It's not all that easy," she adds. "At least, one parent should be there all the time. Because the parent is the teacher, the supervisor and the resource person. There must be self-discipline for it to be effective."

Misha is enjoying the best of both worlds since he plays music and, like his sisters, paints.

Moreover, life in the province allows him to go biking and fishing.

Meanwhile, you can see the result of homeschooling when Misha Romano plays Chopin's Waltz in B Flat Minor, Debussy's Golliwog's Cake Walk, Haydn's Sonata in C Major Hob. 2, and Beethoven's Sonatina in F Major, no. 1, Op. 49.

For ticket inquiries, call (02) 7424621 or (0905) 5584279.

Children's plays by DUP and TP start Nov. 23

By Philbert Ang
Contributor

BULAKAN: UP (DUP) will stage "Umaarao, Umuulan, Kinakasal ang Tikbalang," a children's play based on folklore painters that she produced and features contributing writer Gilda Cordero-Fernando's children's short story "The Magic Circle."

"The Magic Circle" was translated in the Inspired's Learning Set Book in 2009. Adapted by Sheila Sicat and directed by Chanel Rances, "Umaarao" is about the adventures of a boy named Joyce Bayhayin and his pet dog Gilda, as they go on a "magical journey" learning valid lessons about love and courage and respect.

Joyce and Gilda are invited to a wedding party in Sitio's Sulot tree in the middle of the dark forest. There they meet the Spanish-speaking dwarf master of Parque the Tadong Diwata (Madeline Sinukuan and Company), the enormous Dona Geronima with her three real shiny plates, talking pythons and frogs, mystical debutantes, ballerinas and the mysterious Dr. Van Gumsuan of Sitio Bonjour, and a wonderful hopes named Bay.

"Part of the play's objectives is to remind audiences of the richness of our folk literature rendered mostly forgotten by benign popular culture," says Dorella.

"I had fun adapting the story because it is quirky to itself," says Sicat. "I met with Gilda and we decided to add a character for Joyce to experience, to add dimension to his character Gilda's. That objective is lifted from another of her short stories for children, 'We're Happy with the Snake.'"

Award-winning sculptor Lenny Imo does costume designs. Visual artist and Nicanor Mandapat Collaborator members Ben Intahaylo creates shadow puppets.

Len Maceda is set designer and lighting designer. El Ramos handles music and sound design.

"Umaarao" runs Nov. 23-Dec. 11 at Teatro Bienvenido Lumbera of the Philippines, QC. Contact (02) 7730600 or 9282389.

Pinocchio

Tanghalang Pilipino's (TP) staging of "Ellampaya" brings de Jesus-Ella Tagalog translation and adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes," originally slated for November, will be moved to Jan. 11-22, 2012.

Director Rida Bondoc says: "Since Fri. the Writer, one of TP's board members, has been entrusted with this production, was exciting to work Maria Tiongson and Arti School and Indian designers."

Joey Ilustrisimo, Monin Bautista and Irene Reyes will do costume designs.

Meanwhile, TP is running "Pinocchio, Gusto Ko Bang Maging Tao?"

First staged in 2002, this children's play is about the magical adventures of a wooden puppet whose quest to become a real boy leads him to learn about life, love and honesty.

That adaptation by George de Jesus of the well-loved classic tale of Carlo Collodi features Tanghalang Pilipino's Actors Ensemble, TP resident puppet artists.

"Through a musical-filled interactive staging, the production also tackles environmental awareness and addresses the urgent need to teach our children to be active participants in environmental protection," says artistic director Ike Lacaba. "Handling" head.

With music by Ryoung Ramos-Gamboa, costume design by George de Jesus III, set design by Mel Fernando and lighting design by Efren Cortes.

"Pinocchio" runs until December at Tanghalang Huseng Batute, Cultural Center of the Philippines. Tickets are available for booking. Contact 8321661, 8969-894-1364 and 0928-2750747.

SCENE from Tanghalang Pilipino's "Pinocchio, Gusto Ko Bang Maging Tao?"

Japanese danseur...

Pantagat E4

Collaborators

Originally choreographed by Marius Petipa to music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, (the duo also known for "Swan Lake" and "The Nutcracker"), "The Sleeping Beauty" is based on Charles Perrault's fairy tale "La Belle au Bois Dormant."

BP staged it in 1981 with Japanese prima ballerina Yoko Morishita and Cecile Maniquis. Nancy Perdon and Brenda Miranda and in 1986 with Scompoi. Perdon, then CCP artistic consultant, Lisa Macuja and Filipino dancer Alvaro Lumocso.

BP ballet master Victor Ursabia is remaging the production. Music will be performed by the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Jeffrey Solaiman.

Gaudez Ishii invites the public to try watching a ballet like Saturday season for a change.

"It's a different kind of magic," she says. "December is a time when there will be many forms of entertainment to choose from. In this fast-paced world we live in, it's good to have the chance to watch a live performance with the whole family and revel in a show with grace and beauty."

"The Sleeping Beauty" runs from Dec. 2 to 11 at Tanghalang Huseng Batute, Cultural Center of the Philippines. Visit www.bellephilippines.org. Contact Ticketworld at 891-9999, Bellet Philippines at 5511063, 5345781, CCP Box Office at 8321704.

JEAN-MARC Cordero

PHOTO

BP principal dancer Cordero

CAST MEMBERS and Manila producers of "Mamma Mia!" at a recent presscon

'Mamma Mia!' in Manila

THE INTERNATIONAL run of the Broadway and West End smash musical "Mamma Mia!" featuring the classic songs of Abba, will be staged at the CCP Main Theater starting Jan. 24 for a limited season only.

The musical has become a global entertainment phenomenon. "Mamma Mia!" personalizes Abba songs to a fresh, vital and boundaries-free dual-sexual comedy critical Pure pop integrity yet also has something more than to an essential requirement of good musical theater: to advance an appealing story and romance on it.

The story begins 22 years ago when executive producer Judy Craymer first met Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, the songwriting geniuses behind Abba. Meeting the men who had written "Dancing Queen," one of the greatest pop songs of all time, Craymer was suddenly inspired. She was triggered by the song "The Winner Takes It All," its lyrics telling a bittersweet story of love and loss, which become the basis in creating what would become "Mamma Mia!"

The musical's music did not change the lyrics, prohibiting instead to weave a contemporary story, romance, comedy around the songs. Abba's songs generally fall into two different generations—the slightly younger, playful songs like "Money, Money" and "Dancing Queen," and the more mature, emotional songs such as "The Winner Takes It All" and "Knowing Me, Knowing You." The idea of a cross-generational love story was devised.

When "Mamma Mia!" opened in London on April 6, 1999, one British critic said: "Mamma Mia! could put Prozac out of business!"

"Mamma Mia!" recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, and is the Empire Room Building lit up in pink, white and blue to honor of the musical, which has become the 10th longest-running show in Broadway history, surpassing the record previously held by "Miss Saigon."

"Mamma Mia!," presented in Manila by Ishtar, powered by Smart and Globe, will be staged at the CCP Main Theater starting Jan. 24. Tickets are priced at P750, P1,000, P1,500, P2,000, P2,500, P3,000, P3,500, P4,000, P4,500, P5,000, P5,500, and P7,000. Senior citizens enjoy a 20-percent discount.

Call 8916000, or visit www.tickets.ph.com.ph. Weekday (2 p.m.) tickets are priced at P750, P1,500, P3,000, P4,000, P5,000, and P6,000, including shows on Sundays, 8 p.m. Weekend (Saturday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 2 p.m.) tickets are P1,000, P2,000, P3,000, P5,000, P6,000 and P7,000. Family Package: buy 4 tickets to get 20-percent discount on 3rd and 4th tickets. Groups of 20 or more can also get a 10-percent discount.

A Rizal descendant leads cast of Dulaang UP's ongoing 'Noli Me Tangere: The Opera'

SPANISH-FILIPINO ACTOR and singer Raya Martigne counts the National Hero José Rizal as his great-grandfather. It comes during these last 11 days of performing Rizal's first novel character in "Noli Me Tangere: The Opera," Dulaang UP's staging of the classic Felipe de Leon work, with libretto by Guillermo Tolentino based on Rizal's immortal novel.

"Noli Me Tangere: The Opera" runs Nov. 16-Dec. 4 (Wednesdays/Friday 7 p.m.; Saturdays/Sundays, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.) at the Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, and is directed by Alexander Gonzi.

Martigne arrived from Spain five months ago to begin rehearsals for "Noli." In the last 15 years, he's been performing in musical theater, zarzuela, opera, spoken theater, TV and films in Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and China.

Artists from elsewhere in Rizal's The cast also includes Elaine Illiel and Myra-nan Moreno as Maria Clara, Jonathan Mirano and Michael Dominic Santos as Padre Damaso; and Onyl Tuzon as Padre Salvi. Cynthia Suaco and Alex Lumacaldo play Tia Isabel; Jean Judith Javier, Ate Alondra Thompson, Rica Mojeno as alternate as Sisa; and Frederick Floyd is Elias.

Camille Lopez Molina and Edith Martinez-Molina provide vocal coaching and musical supervision, with pianist Noel de la Nava as accompanist.

Production designer Gino Gonzales uses Philippine indigenous materials for the sets, and the metal cloth from the Banaue region for the costumes. The creative team also includes lighting designer Jon Jon Villareal, sound designer Arthur Aragon, choreographer Renee Salonga and videographer Winner David. Special props are designed and executed by John Guevara, with New Frontline rendering the graphics design and photos by Jojo Lorenzo.

SPANISH-FILIPINO actor and singer Raya Martigne

NASAAN SI KUYA BEAR?

DYIL KITO AT SI ILOY PAMILANG NATATANGI SA LAM SA DATAK NATION EDUCATION ANCOUCY. BAUN AC, CAN, KIT PAGA HAM BATA KO-KAMAGKAILAN KA NA TANGAN NATIONAL NA NA NATIONAL NIN ANG LAMBING AT BUMBO NA HAM ADEC. ANG DIAC TI SUT BA HAM ANG LAM BA BATAS, PARA ANUAY TAGAN ANG MAMAYANG.

Klassikal scholars hold concert at Philamlife; Steinway holds piano contest

By Antonio C. Ma

GEORGE YANG'S Klassikal Music Foundation's (KMF) scholars will sing in all-operatic program "Opera Gala," consisting of arias, duets and ensembles, on Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m., at Philamlife Theater.

The Klassikal Music Foundation was established by George T. Yang in 2008 as a private foundation geared toward promoting an appreciation and understanding of classical music in the Philippines. It functions by programs on: concert classical music by assisting and supporting gifted students in developing and enhancing their music talents through providing financial assistance.

KMF has 23 scholars from some of the most prestigious universities in the country, including University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines, Centro Escolar University, St. Paul University Manila and Philippine Women's University.

Scholars of the foundation who will participate in the concert are: Stephanie Aguilar, Bernette Marie Aguilera, Bernardita Chancoco, Veronica Cruz, Maida Anne Dimiciano, Shirley Espina, Ruth Hernandez, Geraldine Perez, Micah David Colong, Leilanie Labor, Vida Grace Mitang, Jade Bobis Rocico and Ruth Villanueva (sopranos); Juan Paolo Azul, Lee Angelo Lamasa, Bowell Cruz, Glenn Richard Magallo, Kenzo Anthony Madridejos and Christian Paguio (tenors); Albert Chua, Quirino de Guzman Jr., Belford Bing Malinao, Vincent Olandesca and Hualling "Eric" Yu (baritones).

Guest performer is the founder of the foundation, the benefactor of the scholars, George T. Yang, himself a tenor. Collaborative pianist is Farley Amancio.

Baritone Andrew Fernando is artistic director.

Arias and ensembles that will be performed are culled from a bouquet of best-known operatic repertoire such as "Pearl Fishers," Bizet; "Der Rosenkavalier," Strauss; "Don Giovanni," Mozart; "The Magic Flute," Mozart; "I Puritani," Bellini; "Les Contes D'Hoffman," Offenbach; "Die Fledermaus," Johann Strauss; "Tosca," Puccini; "Marriage of Figaro," Mozart; "Manon Lescaut," Puccini; "Un Ballo en Maschera," Puccini; "Barnero et Julieta," Gounod; "The Ballad of Baby Doe," Moore; "Porgy and Bess," Gershwin; "Rigoletto," Verdi; "Das Lieds der Lendelheim," Lehar; "La Traviata," Verdi; and "Carmen," Bizet.

Tickets are priced at P500, regular rate; and P300, student rate. They are available at the following McDonald's restaurants: 32nd Street, Alabang, Bonifacio, Greenhills, Greenhills, Eastwood, Edsa Pasay, Provident circle, Ayalaland, New Frontier, Harvest South, Quezon Ave., Espaldon, Rockwell, Shell Emerald, Timog Edsa, Tomas Morato, UN Ave., Ugong Pillars.

For inquiry please contact Ms. Tina Valencia at 8136833.

KLASSIKAL Music Foundation scholars with chairman and founder George Yang (sixth from right)

MORE scholars with foundation chair George Yang

Steinway competition

The Lyric Piano and Organ Corp., sole distributor of Steinway pianos in the country, announces through its president, Alvin Ang II Colombini, the holding of the first National Steinway Pianist Competition on March 25, 2012.

Venue is the Steinway Gallery in Rockwell Bldg., 80 Mella Hernandez Drive cor. St. Domingo St. cor. New Manila, Quezon City.

The sole winner of the 5k competition will have winners in the region, from Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore, on July 27-29, 2012, at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore.

STEINWAY piano 5k on March 25, 2012

The Grand Prize Winner will proceed to Hamburg, Germany and participate in a concert alongside winners from the European nations, a participant to the biennial Steinway International Festival sponsored by Steinway and Sons.

The second prize and third prize winners will get $10,000 and $5,000, respectively.

The jury in the Singapore tilt is composed of Hella Sibt (USA); Cate Pegrum (USA); and Eleanore Wang (Hong Kong).

The tilt is open to pianists 10-17 years of age as of September 2012. They will be required to render a 20-minute solo piano program played from memory from three contrasting stylistic periods.

The program must include the first movement from any sonata by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi or Schubert. Individual movements from other works are acceptable for the two remaining "free choice" selections, but no transcriptions or concert will be permitted.

Grienkel says the competition is aimed at identifying, encouraging and promoting young pianists in the Steinway stages in their careers.

Application forms can be secured from Lyric Piano and Organ Corp.

Call tel. 412.0433 or 7234.072 *and ask for Ida or Mingying*, respectively. It can also downloaded at www.lyricpiano.com.ph

14 more performances of Peta's 'Care Divas' this December

PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL Theater Association's (Peta) "Care Divas" remains a popular contender among the must-see plays of the year.

The comedy musical by Rhiness award-winning playwright Liza Magtoto was set to have a limited run from February to March 2011. However, with great word-of-mouth came requests for more shows.

Since then, one additional show has led to another. Barely nine months since it opened, "Care Divas" has had 69 shows—more than double the number of the play's scheduled performances.

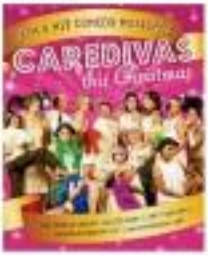
As a Dyosmosa treat to fans of the musical, and as a tribute to all OFWs coming home this Christmas, Peta is producing an additional 14 performances of "Care Divas" this December.

Fans and first-time viewers will be treated to a limited engagement—a night of music, laughter and explosive production numbers that will transport them to a remote island bit Ami club, where daytime gay caregivers transform into fabulous divas at night.

Don't miss the last 14 performances of "Care Divas" at the Peta Theater Center (5 Eymard Drive, New Manila, QC) on Dec. 1 and 8, 8 p.m.; Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

For inquiries and ticket reservations, contact Pete Marbeyra 7235249, 8909823 or 0917 5442435, petemarbeyra@gmail.com.

MELVIN Lee and Pearl Aurora in Peta's "Care Divas"



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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Jaime Zobel's and Igan D'Bayan's apposite takes on urban art

By Constantino G. Tejero

THE JOINT exhibit of photographer Jaime Zobel and painter Igan D'Bayan, recently at the lobby gallery of Ayala Museum in Makati City, is a study in counterpoints.

It has been said that the two artists are on worlds apart... Zobel with his neat images and D'Bayan with his horrid visages; the former an aficionado of the latter a disciple of decay.

But visual tension of form and deformation, which respectively confronts us into contrasting outlooks of beauty and repulsion, has been carried over to this exhibit, spontaneously titled "Zobel. D'Bayan."

As Zobel himself remarked at the show's opening: "Indeed, this exhibit is about contrasts—contrasts which exist in our societies, in our beings and our lives."

Here the two artists appear to have been united only by a tenuous connection: Both drew inspiration from spray painted graffiti and murals by anonymous artists, and both based their subjects in Spain.

Zobel is known for his diminutively lit portraiture and imagery of ordinary objects magnified into abbreviated forms and portraits. So it's a job when here the viewer comes face to face with something endlessly new in his art-making.

At first glance each scrolled piece looks like framed tapestry. One has to get closer to the artwork to see that it is a photograph.

Newfound art form

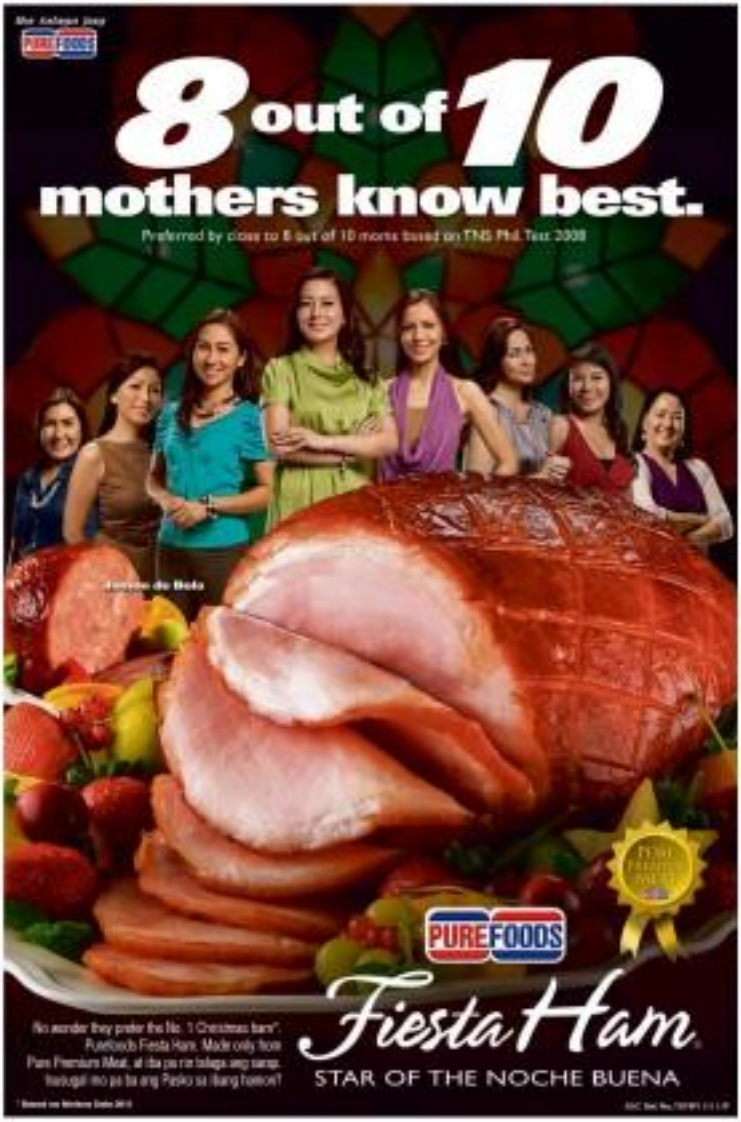
While in Madrid recently, Zobel visited the old Latin Quarter hoping to photograph 19th-century facades. He was disheartened to find that they no longer existed or were already dilapidated.

As he tells it: "Suddenly my eyes caught on various forms of drawings and quasi-graffiti artworks. It took me a while to convince myself I was seeing... I remained in top to see what possibilities I could find with my creativity.

"Looking at the facades of small restaurants and stores in old Madrid, I started finding some extraordinary graffiti and began photographing them. Before I knew it, I was doing compositions out of graffiti, and this led me to other artistic expressions on walls, floors, ceilings...

"My next travel was in London, where I walked down Portobello Road. There, too, I found ample material for my newfound art form. On my return home to Manila, my interest in such public display of art was piqued."

(At hand it is the recently painted by the Blancaniés artists along Shaman Garcia



ZOBEL

ZOBEL

BY ZOBEL

ZOBEL

"APOLLINAIRE" by Igan D'Bayan

Jaime Zobel's and Igan D'Bayan's apposite takes on urban art

From page E1

Street in Makati City, which he duly incorporated into his work.

The heaps of photographs he had taken he juxtaposed into collages and montages. The result is what he calls an "exhilaration of colors," what remains "fresh, joyous and possible in art."

There are 4 intermediary melanges of images ranging from Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art, Graffiti Art and Hallmark aesthetics. From couple-form folk paintings to dolorous images in the style of the Spanish masters.

Zobel considers his own artistic pursuit "a sceptic from my usual cultish and organized style," though. As if he were "quietly listening to Mozart in my room but got distracted looking out my window where three street musicians were happily playing in a calypso style."

Punk aesthetics

D'Bayan was also in Spain, en route to Santiago de Compostela, when he was inspired to create his latest piece in oil on canvas.

In his artistic-like evolution of these particular paintings: "Our group stayed in old accommodations that were transformed into plush Parador hotels. There I saw 1600's or 1700-century paintings by unknown Spanish artists in the manner of El Greco and Velasquez. Many of the stuff we see in art books."

In his urban home, he dusted painting images from horror movies, graphic novels, music videos, and "tried duplicating the lighting, choice of palette and brushstrokes of those anonymous painters."

One can see he is more unyielding if not outright punk in newly-outfitted "punkish" work. He admires visual artistes not by way of impassioned manifestos (as many a lazy artist is wont to do) but through interesting fine line and broad brush strokes, chiaroscuro and color duality.

He is so set that when on all months, fans are known to rely on the afield as Pen, "Blue Velvet," HB Giger, Jean's Addiction, "Behind Lunch," punk, death metal and the punk aesthetics.

Expressionist distortion

In his portraits in this exhibit...chiefly in monochrome of brown, gray or black, D'Bayan is approaching the expressionist distortion of visage by Francis Bacon, those single figures in isolation and despair. Compare, for instance, the horrific "Dog of War" and "Screaming Clown" with Bacon's "Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion."

And here the darkest of the Spanish masters are audible: the sickly green and blue of El Greco, the ugly hues of Goya; the bleak palates of Velasquez.

The centerpiece is a 7 ft x 7 ft oversize rendering of Juan Luna's "Spoliarium." The figure composition is essentially the same except that now the gladiators have been transformed into dolorist heroes and the artist has added the figures of Death and a Personation of the Apocalypse (a bit redundant, that).

A delicate balance pervades this exhibit. Zobel's colorful convoluted images dramatically offset D'Bayan's dark-toned isolated forms.

While Zobel's repertoire what is visible but often left unseen, D'Bayan tries to make visible what is usually hidden. They may be speaking in opposite directions but the connection is not really tenuous at all.

Pacheco, Nemiranda at Fort Santiago

MANILA – "PAENA" Pacheco and Nemiranda is included in "21 Lakambini Masters: Creative Pioneers of Royal Provence." Nov. 27, at the link between Western Garden in Fort Santiago, in-honoris-is. Creative will be Pacheco's unknown water series, in the by-per-satellite medium for a famous by Nemiranda renders Mother and Child scenes and other joyous multi-scenes of Rizalia scenes.

As a tribute to the late Filipi nate, there will be a special sketch-ing workshop session by Jim Ruiz Artists Federation on Nov. 27, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. (Old Memorandum del Museo at 451-1050 or the monument Honorary Dentist at 527-2967.)

Edgar Doctor in Tagaytay

Discovery Country Suites of Tagaytay City, with Gallery Masinag, is featuring selected works from Amelia Fer Edgar Doctor until Jan. 15, 2012. Doctor is well-known for his mastery of watercolor as a medium, inspired by nature and his travels, he transposes his experiences and memories into beautiful watercolor paintings with vibrant hues, bold strokes, fairy tale and landscapes and abstract designs.

A graduate of Fine Arts from University of Santo Tomas, Doctor had already shown his skills by winning several art competitions at an early age. He has also participated and represented the country in numerous exhibits and art festivals abroad. In 2000, he was listed as an outstanding artist of the 20th century by the International Biographical Center in England.

Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Dynamic Teen Company of 2009 Child Hero of the Year, Dino Fernandez, (CAP-20-0298172 or 646-4134387. E-mail: dinomfdiscovery.com.ph.)

'Nothing to Declare' at UP Vargas

"Nothing to Declare," an international art project aiming to create a contemporary discussions on migration, runs until Jan. 7, 2012, in the University of the Philippines Jorge Vargas Museum (Diliman, Quezon City; tel. 8291 857, 981 8500; http://vargasmuseum.upd.edu.ph; http://nothingtodeclare2011.wordpress.com).

Participating artists are Daniela Ayala (Mx), Maura Bonnet (MX), Eli Cardenas (MX), Raul Isidro Cayanan (Philippines), Phyllis Eisen, David Freeman and Lola Hernandez (US), Hannah Israel (Philippines/US), Karen Marshall (US), Frances Nicole Macaraeg (Philippines), Christian "Kong" Ramiro (Australia), Christina Concepcion Pamoti (Philippines), Melissa Ramos (Philippines/Australia), Alvin Rosenbaum and Juliet Lee (Philippines/Barbados), Angelika Rosenkranz (DE), Alex Tio Chin (Australia), and Ann Woo (US). Leo Abaya curates.

INSTALLATION by Marina Sima

'Basic' fotos, Herbosa in Silverlens

"Back to Basics" photography collective runs Nov. 23-Dec. 23 in Silverlens Gallery (Silver Sino Building, 2/F, VMC Bldg., U.N. Ave. corner Paterno St., Manila; tel. 8130002 or 8151-587/4611; www.silverlens.net). A wide range of photographic works, from alternative process cyanotypes to other gelatin photography to color lithographs and digital chromogenic prints will be presented.

Participating artists are Rodel Tapaya, Mideo Cruz, Poklong Anading, Kawayan de Guia, Dinahe Herbosa, Isa Lorenzo, Albert Nonoy, Neil Doloiras, Gino Dalandan, Robert Ryan Enriquez, Rachel Rillo, Isabelle Shinohara, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Noelle Tan, Paolo Ventura, Andy Warhol, BBU Found Xerox Group, Smoothsayers on hold as "In Shadows" by Ilka Herbosa in SLab and 2Squared. It will feature 10 drawings and 14 new paintings, mostly oils on panel, of still-life tableaux and portraits that become known to "There will be a talk right before the opening on Nov. 23, 3-6 p.m., on Collecting Photography by Isa Lorenzo, and Photography Conservation, by Rachel Rillo, on Nov. 26, 3:30-6 p.m., and be as artist Talk by Ilka Herbosa.

"LADDY Chakra Chair"

Black Jack at Big & Small

The Black Jack group will be having an exhibit in the Manila Bigs and Small Gallery (388 Mayamot, tel. 8817-4883/8818-8817/8818-8808) a mail bigsandsmall@yahoo.com) today, 21. Participating artists are Lawrence Carmelo, Joel Tabaco, Ronnie Caballero, Rayvin Gascon and Faye Lewis).

Ching et al. at Magnet

"Line and Space" featuring works by Mideo Cruz, Jane Lobangco, Marc Ching and Pastor Lorenzo runs until Nov. 29 in Magnet Gallery (330 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights; tel. no. 4266-6).

Space and time are relative in her supreme and image ration in the works of the artists. Benedicto and Ching's works both speak about a fictional system of imagined spaces. Benedicto's works are built around pornographic or humor by-ness surrounded in comics while Ching's three-dimensional works are engaged and improbable structures an up of multi-Mesa cuts which play on the idea of line taking a invisible space. Tacoro and Cabangbi works feature interiors and are both painterly strokes and spatial-forms from their memory or utility fluidity.

VISUAL ARTS

"STILL Life with Birds"

First bilingual edition of 'Noli Me Tangere' to be launched

"NOLI ME Tangere," considered the greatest Philippine novel, will be launched in a bilingual book for the first time on Nov. 22, 7 p.m., at the Instituto Cervantes.

The historical bilingual edition, which will be released in conjunction with the 150th birth anniversary of its author, José Rizal, is the result of the collaboration of Instituto Cervantes de Manila and Vibal Foundation to publish the most important Philippine book for Spanish-speaking and English-speaking readers today.

This bilingual compendium and edition reproduces first edition, reduces precisely in its entirety Philologist Jose Browne has supplemented it with over 1,200 notes on both the published Stelle edition and the original manuscript, highlighting Rizal's additions, deletions and modifications.

The original Spanish text has been printed in parallel with Gindo Tampinkon's classic English translation. Expurgated passages have been restored, thus carefully maintaining Rizal's literary voice.

The textual fixes of the novel have been empowered by meticulous research to serve as a tool for future scholars in contributing a definitive version of Rizal's novel.

This editorial's delight also contains an extensive bibliography, tracing the history of Rizal's novel in translations and editions. José Luna's original and evocative illustrations accompany the text.

This book is complemented by Rizal scholar Ambeth Ocampo's introduction, a must-read for historians of the "Noli's" publication. Ocampo provides a fresh and contemporary look into the life and works of the national Hero.

National Archives director Elsa Masakayan-Clemente likewise lauds the efforts of the writers in classical and Philippine art, as well as folklore and Folk literature.

"Noli Me Tangere" was cursed: its political agenda is become a true work of art, thus securing its rightful place in the pantheon of great world literature. With the bilingual edition, it remains as fresh, vital, moving and subversive as on the day it was first published.

Everyone in the Church is free. Copies of the book will also be sold during the presentation.

For more information, call 5261882 or visit http://museo.instituto.es. Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 832 Gil Puyat St., Ermita, Manila.

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UST Publishing House is Publisher of the Year

By Rustie Vera

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Publishing House was named Publisher of the Year at the 30th National Book Awards last Nov. 12 at the National Museum. Handed out recently by the Manila Critics Circle and National Book Development Board, the 30th National Book Awards listed the best books published in 2010.

It is UST Publishing House's (USTPH) third time to be named Publisher of the Year, having previously received the honor in 2003 and 2004. The museum received a cash prize of P15,000 as well as trophies made by award-winning sculptor Salvador Ard Alvarado.

Abel Wigley, deputy director of USTPH, accepted the award on behalf of the director, award-winning writer-editor Celestina Boninsky Hidalgo.

He thanked the PBDC and MBOB for the award and the "committed writers and the UST administration, led by UST Rector Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP, for their support of the press. De la Rosa himself had won the National Book Award for history previously.

"The award is a fitting recognition of UST and its Quadricentennial celebration," Wigley said, referring to the 400th anniversary celebration of Asia's oldest university. He likewise invited everyone to attend the huge launch early next year of all of the titles of the USTPH's "400 Books for 400 Years" project, slated in connection with the UST Quadricentennial.

The complete list of winners: Best Book in the Social Sciences: "Conglomerate or Monde: ng Sariwa?" by Alcibiades Nicanor Alfiler Foundation Inc. and De La Salle University's Best Book in Poetry: "If I Were You This Poem, Will You Make It Fly" by Ameron Bonifacio A. (Ateneo de Manila University Press); Ann C. Layle Pelin (in Best Book in Literature: "Blue Angel, White Shadow: A Novel" by Charlson Ong (UST Publishing House); Jaquin R. Cruz Pelin for Best Book in Literary Criticism/Literary History: "Bunong at Ulirat: Rhoda Intavan at Anti-Aklat" by Rhoda Lynn Tenorio Nevos (Mariano) Comendador Ave Calilan; and Bel Aglay Alfaro T. Guggia Prize for Best Art Book: "The Urian Anthology 1980-1989" introduced, compiled and edited by Nestore G. Tiongson (University of the Philippines Press and Film Development Council of the Philippines). Best Book on Philippines Pelin (Sagad in Bote: Pinoy Dolyar sa Ika-Pung Anibersaryo" by Rolando B. Bagsican Jr. (UST Publishing House).

Best Book on Literature: "Culinaryanas: A Culinary Tour from the Boco-Benet Table" by Rocio Prado Delgado, Emma Sison Montecalvo, Cristina Roces-Cortes, Grace Rosario-de Guzman, Filipino Merchants and Vicky Valera-Barrera (Anvil Publishing, Inc.); Best Design: "To Give and Not to Count the Cost: Ateneo Centennial Scholarship Awardees 1909-2009" by Rodolfo F. Aug. Nazoy Pe-Rodriguez and Rhea-ni E. Bayhon, book designed by Belen Mapa Bilgard (Ateneo Press); Publication of the Year: UST Publishing House.

Special citations were given to "Lumbay ng Dilig" (Jean C. Lim Pelin for Best Novel in a Filipino Language) by Genoveva L. Asensio (C&E Publishing, Inc.); "The Life and Art of Benny Francisco by BH Reyes, Rina O. Guillermo, Palmiro G. Paulino and Ian M. Manalo (Visual Foundation, Inc.); "Watercolorist Rediscovering Life" by Grace Rosario Pelin Novel in a Filipino Language) by Ateneo Press and Anvil Publishing for the Love Mea and Wumwood Anniversaries.

Founded in 1981, the Manila Critics Circle is a non-profit, nonstock organization of professional literary critics and correspondents ordinarily tasked to select Philippine books deserve much more attention than they usually get from business, media and the general public.

Membership in the Circle is strictly by invitation: a unanimous vote is required before anyone is invited to become a member.

Illustrations are National Artist for Literature Virgilio S. Almario, Jeanne Arellano, Erik F. Blandich, Jaquin R. Cruz, Paul S. De Vera, Shirley O. Lee, Ben H. Maquera, Ernesto Reinoso, Soledad S. Reyes and Joel Pablo Salud.

The MCC received nine an agreement with the MBOB to institutionalize the National Book Awards with the NBDB to better honor Philippine publishers and authors.

Anvil holds Christmas book sale

TO SHOW its appreciation to Filipino book lovers this Christmas, Anvil Publishing Inc., National Book Store and Powerbooks are giving up to 25-percent discount on select Anvil publications in all National Book Store, Bestsellers and Powerbooks branches until Dec. 31.

There is 500 titles from Anvil Publishing in different categories: fiction, arts and culture, literature, history and humanities, textbooks, biographies, reference and children's story books will make the perfect gift for any avid reader.

New releases and titles from best-selling authors, such as Adolfo Dorotheo, Randy David, Amelia Daffa, Margarita Holmes, Quirino Lee Chua, Macoy Pacquiao, Mon Tulfo, are also available at special discounts.

The promotion is available in all National Book Store and Powerbooks branches.

Philippine diplomacy

Philippine diplomacy has contributed substantially to building the foundation from contemporary according to the new Anvil Publishing book, "The Philippines in Asean: Reflections from the Listening Post."

Author MC dined in spent 25 years working in the Asean, starting as senior research officer, then as assistant director for political affairs, director for the socio-cultural bureau and as director for the Asean Regional Forum Unit.

"Functional diplomacy... is about managing poverty struggle and competition among nations," writer Abad. "But I believe international relations is equally about friendships that is cultivated through time, and nurtured in mutual understanding. My desire is for the Philippines to continue to find and create opportunities for making a difference beyond its shores, and bravely from them at the same time."

The book is highly recommended by former Asean secretary general Rodolfo Severino and University of the Philippines professor emeritus Carolino Hernandez as a must-read for students of foreign relations and international law.

Book on education system

Former education undersecretary Jesus Miguel Luz puts together his learnings and insights on Philippine education in "Brigada Eskwela: Essays on Philippine Education," by Anvil Publishing.

The essays probe major issues in Philippine education, such as low scores in achievement tests, English-first policy and language challenges and lack of resources among others, while featuring some "bright spots" in the system such as Brigada Eskwela, a community-based program that supports public schools and the presence of good teachers and good schools that perform well despite the lack of resources.

PEN to launch book on Manila Times publisher David Boguslav

"THE LIFE and Times of David T. Bogusław" by Marites Rodriguez Mateo is a coffee-table book that offers the reader a rare glimpse into the professional and personal life of a literary icon in Philippine journalism at the time he was at the helm of the oldest English newspaper in the country from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Replete with original photographs, documents and meticulously detailed letters to and from the biggest names in Philippine history, the book is generously sprinkled with anecdotes and footnotes to explain the political and historical developments covered by Boguslav in his work.

A proud addition to any literary fan's book collection is an excellent gift to someone interested in how he passed down Filipino generations in preparation as an inspiration to emulate the Encyclopedia of a grand old man, David Boguslav, a true journalist of an exciting era in the Philippines.

The book will be launched by the Philippine PEN writers group at Solidaridad Bookstore, founded and ownership by authors and National Artist for Literature F. Sionil José (Manila Times Publishing Co., Manila, pp. 256-50001 for Nov. 26, 5 p.m.

The authors will be available to sign purchased books.

For inquiries, call Solidaridad at 733, look for Fina A. Gonzalez.

Filipinas Library hosts book festival

IN CELEBRATION of National Book Month and in preparation for the upcoming Christmas season, authors, performers, thinkers, musicians, writers, readers and book lovers of all ages will gather at the First Library Festival organized by Filipinas Library. The event will showcase books from different local and international publishers, crafts related to the written word and other educational and related products and services.

On Nov. 24-26, everyone is invited to celebrate creative inspiration. The power of the imagination, and the magic of reading at the courtyard and pedestrian of the library. Advocates of art, books and reading will come together for various activities designed to happen during the festival, from storytelling sessions, art and craft-making, lectures on the importance of reading, talks or writing for various audiences, to book launches.

The event will benefit the Orchid Street project of Filipinas Heritage Library, which seeks to build community libraries or learning centers on or the outskirts of Metro Manila.

For inquiries regarding the book fair and events, please call Cecile Carefio at 892-1001 or 0917-5612923, e-mail booksforsale@filipinaslibrary.ph, booksforsale@filipinaslibrary.ph, visit www.filipinaslibrary.ph or for details or to see the complete listing of the book events.

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With ARGENTINA ANDALE HOTDOG, Nutrition is as Easy as A-B-C!

Both kids and parents are raving about Argentina Andale Hotdog, the latest offering from Argentina, the number one canned meat brand in the Philippines. With its unique formulation called ABC (Active Brain-building Choline), this hotdog provides a much needed nutrition boost that all parents want for their children.

Medical practitioners, nutritionists, and researchers from all over the world have expressed excitement about the benefits of Choline. This vitamin-like nutrient has been called the brain's "memory enhancer", as various studies have shown that it helps improve the cellular structure and communication pathways of the brain's neurons. Once activated by the metabolic properties of protein, Choline leads to increased mental alertness, which is great news for kids of all ages. Argentina Andale Hotdog has the highest level of Choline among local hotdog brands. Two pieces of Argentina Andale Hotdog provide 30% of kids' daily requirement for Choline.

The ABC formulation also includes Protein, the fundamental building block of healthy muscles and strong antibodies for the immune system. Since Protein also supports metabolism, it activates and boosts the brain to utilize Choline even more. This is the secret of Argentina Andale Hotdog's unique Active Brain-Building formulation, which is why other variations high in fat pale in comparison to Argentina Andale Hotdog's appeal to the consumer's palate.

Argentina Andale Hotdog uses only premium quality meat in order to ensure an exceptionally tasting, nourishing snack. Moreover, compared to other hotdogs in the market, Argentina Andale has fewer calories, fat, and sodium – truly making it the more nutritious option. Apart from this, Argentina Andale Hotdog is already fully cooked, which prolongs shelf-life and reduces preparation time.

It's no surprise then that network stars and kids Zappe Jaramilla (from Mga Batang Pa-es) and Nicolo Syriel Manalad (from 100 Days to Heaven), and Mutya Orquia (from Mutya), already jumped for joy upon learning that they were chosen as the newest endorsers for Argentina Andale Hotdog. Given their hectic shooting schedules - starring in top-rated teleseryes - it is certainly not an easy feat - finding an absorbent and accessible supply of hotdogs given their a much needed pick-me-up to learn their lines and perform their roles flawlessly.

While shooting their commercials for print and television, crew members were thoroughly charmed at the way Zappe, Syriel, and Mutya lined on waiting for more servings of Argentina Andale Hotdog. Indeed, with the three child stars leading the way, the production became an "Easy as A-B-C". Their obvious delight and enthusiasm affirms that Argentina Andale Hotdog will continue to be a part of their daily lives.

Due to the warm acceptance that the product has enjoyed so far, Argentina Andale Hotdog has extended its introductory promo - for each 1 kilo pack (for both classic and cheesedog variants), get as much as five (5) free hotdogs for only Php150 (SRP). Like Zappe, Syriel, and Mutya, see how Argentina Andale Hotdog makes nutrition as easy as A-B-C!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Erwin G. Velicaria

'Liberacion' wins in Manhattan fest

FILIPINO filmmaker Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Liberacion" won best global narrative film at the International Film Festival Manhattan in New York City last week. The indie drama stars Judy Moa, Mercedes Cabral, Ridley Mauricio and Ronald Arutmanga. Set after World War II, it tells of a Japanese soldier who links to Philippine jungles for 20 years.

—Rayzel Ann Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

EDWARD (Pattinson) and Bella (Stewart) Finally!

'Breaking Dawn 1': From stiff to mopey

"LAUGHABLE" probably isn't the word the makers of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1" were aiming for, but there it is, laughter in all the wrong places.

The fourth movie in the freakishly popular girl-romp-evil-lose-triangle series is so self-serious, it is hard not to cackle at it. The dialogue is, of course, ridiculous and the acting ranges from stiff to mopey. But moments that should be pulsating with tension are usually lackluster because the special effects are still just so distractingly cheesy.

Out of place

The latest installment has yet another new director—Bill Condon, a man capable of both parodies ("Dreamgirls") and serious subtlety ("Gods and Monsters"). Little of which you will see here—and yet again, the screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg (of jokes with their scare-quotes). In a technological age in which Gollum from the "Lord of the Rings" movies blends in seamlessly with everyone and everything around him, how are such sloppy visual effects still possible? Adam Sandler played opposite himself more convincingly in "Jack and Jill."

But we digress, because other movies are more fun to discuss. "Breaking Dawn-Part 1," the first of two films adapted from the final book in Stephenie Meyer's sickly (still, part two coming next year), serves as a placeholder for the ultimate finale but is jam-packed with development in its own right. Bitchin Robert Pattinson, once again, as the adapted screenplay) he much happier that you wonder, how can there be another entire film after this? Alas, there will be.

Lavish, ravenish

But we begin with Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and her vampire beau, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), merrily ignoring a lavish, romantic outdoor ceremony. Bella's childhood best friend and the other man in the equation, werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner, barely recognizable with his shirt on), shape by as a gesture of goodwill. Guests mingle and

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ILOILO

DUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

ILOILO

BLISSFUL SLUMBER

Baby Nathaniel James Alcedo is safe and cozy on the ride to his first checkup, with mom Regine Velasquez right next to him. Proud dad Ogie Alcasid shared with us this photo of their "gift from God," born Nov. 8. The baby is currently residing in the couple's bedroom, since Regine has decided to leave dad (but the guest room will soon be converted into a baby's room once Baby Nate is old enough to go solo.

'Breaking Dawn 1' . . .

from page 1

dance and you have to wonder: do they realize that the person and his entire family are the living dead? Do these sexier, pantslain vampires even mind glowing amber eyes hurting them? The mind wanders.

Anyways, finally—finally—Bella and Edward can have sex, the thing she has wanted all along but he has been reluctant to do for fear that influencing her will, you know, kill her. For the "Twilight" movies (and the books that inspired them) may be filled with swoony vampires and broody werewolves, but they are firmly pro-abstinence—and, hilariously, anti-abortion.

The should-be-the-happiest day of Bella's life has she is, of course, nervous and miserable in general. Because she is Bella Stewart maintains her usual sullen look for most of the picture. After the ceremony, Edward whisks her away to a private island for the Brazilian start to smile sweet, sweet vampire love before it inevitably, inexorably, all hell—starting with a broken bed frame. Both of them floating in the air and a baby growing inside the new bride. That's how good Edward is.

Potentially dangerous

From here, "Breaking Dawn" devolves into a debate about what to do with this potentially dangerous hybrid spawn. Whether to keep it to never really in question, even though it is developing at an alarming rate, eating fetus up from the inside and threatening her very life. She votes for the baby to survive and everyone else sits around discussing while Jacob's werewolf pals hover outside the Cullen clan's door, prepared to pounce. And talking.—robots, regrets, a season on the sidelines but instead comes off as just plain silly.

The score from Carter Burwell, the veteran composer and longtime Coen brothers collaborator, is surprisingly lively and interesting and it doesn't underscore the film's tone. The Twilight Wedding Reception this weekend probably will not, though. That is what they have been hoping for, and it will be up to to them next.

Inspiring movies for free at UE Film Festival starting today

THE UNIVERSITY of the East Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) is holding a film festival starting today until Nov. 26 at the UE Theater.

The festival, with the theme "Values Reflect," features the following inspirational movies that depict values, hope and redemption: "Sarah's Choice," today, 10 a.m., 2 p.m.; "More Than Heroes," Nov. 22 and 25, 10 a.m., 2 p.m.; "Letters to God," Nov. 23, 10 a.m., Nov. 26, 10 a.m., 2 p.m.; "Miranda," Nov. 23, 2 p.m.

"These films are more than just feasts for the eyes. They are thought-provoking selection because of their messages of optimism, joy and harmony, said OCA director Genevieve Gatangal.

Admission is free, on a first-come first-served basis. For details, call 735-5475 loc. 441.

TAYLOR Lautner is honestly recognizable with his new look.

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 2

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
4) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN, THE
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
6) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
7) BREAKING DAWN PART 1

GREENBELT 5

1) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1

GREENBELT 3

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
3) RESERVED
4) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
4) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
4) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN

MARQUEE

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
4) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN

MARKET! MARKET!

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) TOWER HEIST
3) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN
4) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
6) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
7) RESERVED

TRINOMA

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2) DRIVE
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
4) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
6) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN
7) BREAKING DAWN PART 1

ABREEZA

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
4) PRAYER OF BENJAMIN

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April Boy knows how to say thanks

By Nestor R. Cruz

SINGER April Boy Regino would have lost to his battle with prostate cancer in 2009 if not for his wife Maded, who became his pillar of strength.

"He got very depressed when he was diagnosed," Maded told Inquirer. "He stopped eating and refused all cancer-related treatments. He was reduced to skin and bones. He kept saying, 'If I must die, then so be it.'"

April Boy was the leader of the April Boys trio, which was very popular in the 1990s. The singer-songwriter churned out hit novelty songs like "Paano ang Puso Ko," "Utakjah na Puso" and "Si Si Wonder" could be used his family engrossed in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2004.

Maded said April Boy did not heed his doctor's suggestion for a biopsy. She added that her husband is also diabetic and hypertensive.

"My children (John Christian, 33, and Charisterina, 30) and I couldn't accept that we were losing him; he was only 68," recalled Maded. "He used to be very jovial but, at that time, he questioned God. On the other hand, I always thought he'd recover."

No insurance

Maded said the illness put a strain on their finances. "He doesn't have medical insurance, his application was disapproved because of his diabetes and hypertension," she explained.

April Boy sought medical aid from the US government since they are immigrants. "We lined up at another section at 4 a.m. and were called at 8:30 p.m. It was very cold. I felt like crying."

April Boy refused to go back to Manila and let everyone know what he was going through, Maded said. "We had been away five years; it was hard to convince him to come home," she said. "He agreed only when I told him that, before he died, he should help JC (John Christian) fulfill his years-dream of becoming a singer."

When the Reginos arrived here in January 2010, Maded's brother Joel immediately diagnosed April Boy as a lumad of health capsules made of pure herbs. She recounted: "I didn't believe in alternative medicine. But at that point we had nothing to lose."

Soon she believed that was what saved her husband's life. "Three days after he started taking Lunas capsules, the cancer pain in his stomach was gone. Three months later, his sugar level and blood pressure had normalized. Now doctors say his condition is normal. He has even regained his weight."

She's unsure of the ongoing debate about alternative medicine, Maded said. "We're just really happy to tell people how we think he was healed. And April Boy is just really thankful for this new lease on life."

April Boy will have a thanksgiving concert Nov. 26 at the Starlite Sports Center, headlining Mr. and Ms. JC and guests Lily Castillo, Ciara Sotto, Ate Shaira, Justin Dizon, JPC Band, Bayugan na Band, Instinct Band and Mayor Pacquiao "Ang Pamalakaya" Dumlao Productions, will of course star April Boy who turned 70 in April.

APRIL Boy Regino: "I am healed."

ENTERTAINMENT

DAVID Anthony, company manager: "The Philippines is a concert market for us."

Encore for Cirque

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Mark Atkinson

A TROUPE that good deserves an encore, always.

And so, just months after "Banda," Philippine promoter Ovoplus announced last week the return of Cirque du Soleil to Manila.

From Aug. 9 to 19, 2012, Cirque will present its longest-running touring production, "Saltimbanco," to Philippine audiences on the new Hall of Asia Arena, which opened in the summer.

"The Philippines is a fantastic market for us," David Anthony Cirque company manager told Inquirer during the launch held at the Manila Hotel recently.

PAGE 2

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A LIFIN — BY JESS ARRIOLA

PUSAO BOBOY — BY RY JUNIOR

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVENOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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BIRD MACHINE — BY TINGOY ARRIOLA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF MAHER

TAGOOK — BY MANA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is an excellent day to start to pay serious thought to Aries' food plans. It's perhaps your thoughts about publishing the results, novelties or the like.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Of course you'll want to pay attention to making important repairs at home and to productivity. You'll also be more in the mood for harmonious and luxurious indoors. Offer an initial romantic gesture.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Communicate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Concentrate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Concentrate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Concentrate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Concentrate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Concentrate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Concentrate with local party might that will add variety. Friendly, but they will push you to do more than you should. Avoid physical activity and pressure.

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Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Ware

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7								9
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Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Stuck in a comfortable rut

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SARAH Geronimo

KLEA Pina Quiazon

REFORMERS is a predictable proposition, but some stars get so easily entrenched in the biz that they eventually find themselves stuck in a rut. The others may continue to soar, but most of them typecast veteran performers as pretty much the same kind of role due to producers and talent execs' mistaken notion that viewers like seeing more again and again in their "signature" roles as character types.

One of the popular latecomers currently stuck in "sexy comedienne" roles is **Bela Mae Quiazon**. Aside from the long-running "Bubble Gang," she appears regularly on the fantasy soap "Balahibo," where she's cast as the show's sexy villainess—but, with a comedic twist in less-than-evil fashion.

On the soap, her "funny" gambits include "hard-to-say English" and stuttering mistakes that, as local show biz lore has it (after you, Tintin! Sorbetes and many others!) are labor easily-had.

Of course, the actress' villainous portrayal does a lot of its bile and bite due to its comic coloration but that doesn't seem to bother the show, as it goes on its merry and self-conscious way to be loved.

Bela Mae does better on "Bubble Gang," where she's had years to fine-tune her "kinaks" portrayal to the point where she can probably do it in her sleep. Indeed, at times her performance is so loose-jerk and paddled but that she could be taking it less lackadaisically while doing it.

Bela Mae has had their own undeniably lunch boosters, we hope that an intrepid producer gives Bela Mae something else to do. We believe that, under all that "sarcastic" someone and potential darkness and shadowiness, the actress has it in her to surprise viewers—and perhaps even herself. All it would take to relieve the radical shift to a role that would require her to tap into yet unexplored areas of her performing psyche.

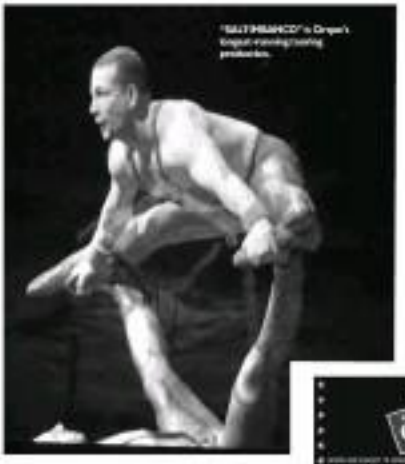
Other comediennes have shown the way, like Cacai Mortiz and Eugene Domingo. Cacai used to be a "sexy comedienne" type years ago, but in the popular hit, "My Other Woman," she played a mother with "hiv" and "sus," and quite convincing at that (proven, lapped up—and she became even more).

Eugene won't be "sexy" type, but she delivers how a comedienne who keeps revising new aspects to her performing persona can belatedly rise to the heights of stardom, and stay there—thanks to varied roles that require her to keep testing her limits, both as a funny girl and as a "serious" performer.

Given the right range of roles and encouragement, Bela Mae can similarly shine. Nicole's somebody give her a chance to get out of the comfortable rut she's in and prove her real range and worth?

That plea, by the way, goes double and triple for other stars who have also been typecast in roles that have limited their growth and ability to show their versatility.

They include Jaime Gibbs, Gabi Valdez, Robin Padilla, Candaal Sanchez, Bodjeh Padilla, Ariel Rivera, Smith Gurtiérrez, Jean Garcia, Phillip Salvador, Pokwang and Eheweist.



Encore...

From page G1

Anthony said the Manila crowd had readily embraced Cirque's form of entertainment. He offered an explanation: "Filipinos understand our style...which is not surprising, because the Philippines has a strong tradition of the performing arts. Everyone here loves to sing and dance."

"Alcohol" had added over 10 shows to its run—in contrast of brisk ticket sales. It was "very successful," Anthony pointed out. "Everyone was delighted with the results."

Even the mercurial Gilbert, a chance that Cirque du Soleil will set up a Manila base, just like the one in Las Vegas, Macau, New York, Orlando, Tokyo and Los Angeles?

"Who knows? As we mentioned before," said Anthony, "impossible' is only a word." Anthony quipped, "If response for 'Saltimbanco' is not so overwhelming, perhaps we'll consider that." A resident show in Manila isn't far-fetched, but only especially since Filipino artistry is acclaimed the world over.

Filipinos who are interested in joining Cirque may check out the company's website, for and, "We are always looking out for new talents—dancers, singers, acrobats, jugglers."

As mentioned by Lalibert, Cirque has always been open to all nationalities and cultures, added Anthony.

He revealed, "Cirque started in a group of 8 track-artists to seven performances in Canada." From that raging troupe, Cirque has grown into a "global organization."

"Cirque du Soleil has evolved into an international cultural icon," said Chevalier Thursday. Canada's ambassador to the Philippines.

The new venue is perfect, Anthony said. "After experiencing the big top with 'Alcohol,' Filipinos will get to watch in more classy."

Mall of Asia Arena, which will be finished by April next year, "comfortably seats 10,000, but for the 'Saltimbanco' 6,000 seats will be made available," according to IM reps.

E-mail: ltorre@philstar.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lorna Tolentino now a proud grandma

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

LORNA TOLENTINO is one proud lola, even if she doesn't look like one. Her son Rap's love child, Lyl, was born on the holy day, 11/11/11.

"I'm super happy and blessed to have an apo," Lf beams. "Now I have a new reason to be inspired to work."

It also likely to spoil her apo? "Nako, syempre ni Dahon ng opalized ne bata," she says. "Sa awas lil 5 pampers Lyl ang kanema rito sa discipline."

What are her parenting tips to Rap? "I don't see the need to teach him, "Lf points out. "Nakikita ko naman na he's doing his best, and so is Lorna (Lyl's mom)."

From grand diva Best Actress to grandma, Lf is doing it to style.

Missing dad

Lf's son Rap is equally happy. "I will watch my daughter's dance competition," he says. "But I will also miss her in he unnerstand and instill in her the joy of reading."

Being a dad makes Rap miss his dad, **Rudy Fernandez**, all the more. "Wow I wish my dad were still here to see his apo," Rap says. "But I know he's watching over us. I will treat Lyl the way my dad treated me. It's my turn."

Any marriage plans? "No to marriage and no to live in," he says. "Lorna and I are on good terms. We will keep our who fectalfup child-centered."

To paraphrase Rit dad's famous line, "Walang hasulan, pagmamahal lang."

Blushing bride

On Nov. 19, Janis did the knot with her sweetheart Mr. DJ Gavin. "He's meant for me," says the actress singer. "Our wedding was everything I dreamt of."

The processional song was "I Will Be Here" and the bridal march, "Now That I Have You" by the Company.

Her song for her hubby? "We have so many theme songs," Janis says. "But if I had to pick one, it would be 'Come Away With Me' by Norah Jones."

Will she give up singing to be a full-time housewife? "That hasn't crossed my mind," she says. "As long as gusto pa akong mag-sing-sing ako, I guess I still have a place in the industry."

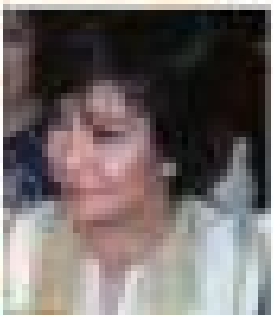
Janis' wedding was the coming to life of every love song she ever sang.

Best teacher

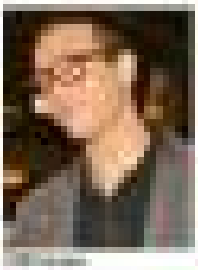
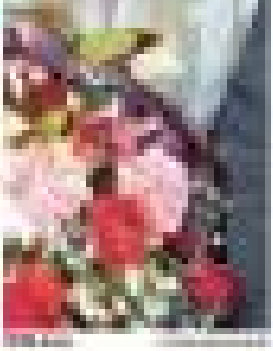
Dutch Ramsay is one of the few mod-

(CONTINUED)

Expert says man is not on sharks' menu



Me Guy night at Cinemanila awards

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GMA

Gervais to host Globes once again

'Not sure if I'm flattered that they trust me or insulted that they trust me... either way, they shouldn't trust me'

RICKY Gervais unrobed organizers but your

LOS ANGELES—Ricky Gervais says he wants to improve on his counterproductive performance at the 2011 Golden Globe Awards—by being even more outrageous the next time around.

The British comedian said his third time hosting the annual Hollywood awards ceremony in January 2012 would definitely be his last. But he is starting to get into with a bang.

"They must be mad. Not sure if I'm flattered that they trust me or insulted that they trust me... Either way, they shouldn't trust me," Gervais said in a statement on Thursday.

The outside creator of TV mockumentary "The Office" last year insulted Golden Globe organizers with jokes about lesbian and took shots at Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie's ostensibly paused royals, "The Tudors," that was up for a Golden Globe nomination.

The president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which hosts the event, said afterward that Gervais would not return.

"I don't think anyone had the right to be offended but time were over. This year I'm going to make sure their officers is completely justified," Gervais said on his blog on Thursday. He asked fans to pass on their "favorite targets for the ensemble."

After Golden Globe organizers announced one day earlier that he'd be back, Gervais warned little time in mocking more elite in Hollywood. He posted a Twitter message saying that he told Gervais host, comedian Billy Crystal: "We'd better not see any of my 'holocaust or pedophile interest'" at the Academy Awards on February 2012.

Gervais also gloated over being invited back again, saying it was a tough decision for him because "I was worried that I couldn't improve on last year."

"What actually tipped the balance and made me say yes was the fact that it would shut up all those... idiots who said that I'd never be invited back," he wrote on his blog. His hosting will be either a problem for celebrities and Golden Globe organizers as a stroke of genius for the NBC television network that airs the awards show.

The timing also will be good publicity for the comedian's new TV venture, "Life's Too Short" which will make its US debut on HBO in early 2012.

Gervais' new show is a documentary-style comedy about the life of a short-statured actor. Warwick Davis is a veteran of himself.

Actor Jason appears on the TV show in a cameo role as himself, repeating with Gervais over his money-making career and suggesting that, for at least one Hollywood star, all is forgiven.

Reuters

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LEARNING
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You can't IMPROVE what you can't MEASURE

By Grace Shinghuan Ko, Ph.D.
Contributor

DR. ANDREAS Schleicher is a man with a mission. He holds thousands of pieces of data on learning outcomes from 74 countries.

He gets around the world making these statistics transparent to governments officials, education ministers, university presidents, school superintendents, teachers, parents, and even bankers, hoping they would appreciate the implications of these numbers.

At the recent 37th Annual Conference of the International Association for Educational Assessment, which was held in Manila and hosted by the Center for Educational Measurement, he delivered the closing address with unmistakable urgency.

His message: Systems that are honest to themselves will understand that compromises that are measured have a very powerful impact on one's life chances.

DR. ANDREAS Schleicher

World's schoolmaster

Originally from Hamburg and a physicist by training, Schleicher, dubbed the world's schoolmaster, is one of the most influential education experts that you have not heard of.

When he first joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996, he and his colleagues proposed to design a test that would shift from measuring inputs (like spending per schools) to outputs (how much kids are learning).

The result was the Program for International Student Assessment, globally known as Pisa, a two-hour test that assesses students' capacity to extrapolate and apply creatively from what they learn.

Pisa tests are opposite to common school tests. Schleicher pointed out that test items that were easiest to assess were the easiest to teach, but also the easiest to lose.

Pisa are some test items in Pisa? In reading, for instance, students are given two texts about graffiti: one negatively in tone, another positively or an. Students are then asked which one they choose, and to judge the rationale of their arguments. In mathematics, students who are good in equations and formulas may not do well in Pisa. The test requires students to use math in understanding the structure in the real world and to decide which tools are relevant and how to apply them to problem solving.

> Tests items that are easiest to assess are the easiest to teach, but the easiest to lose

In 2000, 32 countries of OECD signed on to participate in Pisa. By 2011, even non-OECD members have joined the movement, making a total of 74 participating countries. By the way the Philippines is not a Pisa participant.

With statistics culled from 28 million 15-year-old students, Schleicher has revealed unexpected, if not shocking, results over the years.

For one, the United States has dropped from rank No. 1 in 26 in the 2003 results. The current rankings show that many of the highest-performing school systems are in Asia—specifically China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan.

Pisa has much but where

The results further showed that success in test alone have much a country to spending

YOU CAN'T/12

An antisuicide assignment

By Franco F. Regalado
Contributor

MONTHACHERS seem to have a hard time understanding that sensation teachers call the "satisfaction of teaching."

It is this other-than-material reason that makes teachers love what they do, despite obstacles like salary, stress-induced insomnia and breakdowns.

To quote a coteacher: "Bising inaggrabyan ko! Mahal ko ang pagtuturo, e." (What can I do? I love teaching.)

This works the other way around, too. One of the greatest joys of teaching is to look at your students' work and see how much insight and creativity they can express with just a nudge or two in the right direction.

So much, in fact, that it sometimes even you, who think you already know how your students tick.

A recent activity I gave my first year high school class lifted me from a recent bout with the blues. The assignment grew from a discussion of a Manuel Arguilla story "The Long Vacation."

On the surface, the story was just a formal conversation between a boss and an employee. But it hinted at the employee's desire to commit suicide, embedded in the subtle tension present in almost every arguilla work.

The task I gave them seemed simple enough. "Write yourself an 'antisuicide note.'"

I came up with the term as a counterpoint to the traditional "suicide note" that people wanting to end it all, write, revealing everything they have in their lives, with all literary gusto.

ANASTHESIOLOGY/ 8

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Assignment: DepEd

DepEd, Bobol to spend P25.4M for classrooms

By Tara Quimpando

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) and the provincial government of Bohol are jointly spending P25.4 million for the construction of new public school classrooms in the province.

Under an agreement signed by Education Secretary Armin Luistro and Bohol Gov. Edgar Chatto, the partnership, which calls for a 50-50 sharing of costs, will start with the building of 62 classrooms.

It is estimated that the 62 new rural Philippine provinces needs at least 600 additional classrooms.

The partnership raised to P1.18 billion the total of funding pledges from local governments this year. The amount is enough to pay for some 1,200 new classrooms in DepEd's partner localities.

The 50-50 funding scheme with local governments is part of DepEd's efforts to address the nationwide classroom shortage of more than 66,000.

The agreement between DepEd and the Bohol provincial government said, through the Counter-Parting Program, the participating local government would share with the national government the cost of building new classrooms in accordance with its own drawings.

Bohol was the fifth province to join the cofunding program. Earlier, the provincial governments of Camarines Sur, Ilocos Norte and Occidental Mindoro, among others, also signed up for the DepEd initiative. Several city governments are also partnering with DepEd for the construction of more classrooms in their areas.

The cofunding program augments DepEd's school construction budget this year of P11.2 billion, enough to build 11,000 classrooms. DepEd is aiming P12.4 billion in 2012 to enable it to completely fix the shortages.

The department has also tapped the private sector in its efforts to provide enough classrooms for the country's public schools. With its partnerships with the Philippine Business for a Social Progress, League of Corporate Foundations and Philippine Business for Education, DepEd expects to build 35,000 classrooms in two years.

LANCE Gokongwei (left) and Peter Angelo Abella said their partnership with a foundation, Aklat ng Lahi Gokongwei, (above) a new classroom donated by GBF

Foundation builds public schoolhouses

THE GOKONGWEI Brothers Foundation (GBF), with Aklat Ng Lahi brings wings to Pag-asa at Ang-asa Elementary School in Cavite.

The buildings are part of GBF's commitment to construct 30 two-classroom preschool edifices, called Aklat Sinagtanga, with Agapay, a nonprofit student organization pursuing programs for underprivileged Filipino preschool children.

JG Summit Holdings Inc. president and chief operating officer Lance Gokongwei said, by funding Aklat Pangarap classrooms, the foundation hopes to respond to the most immediate needs of primary school children. Gokongwei is GBF treasurer.

The handover ceremonies were also attended by GBF general manager Lisa Gokongwei, Agapay president Paolo Aquino-Abellada, executive director Gil Capinit, director Peter Jolo Angelo Bautista and Eulalie Cabrera, and employees of Robinsons Home and Robinsons Bank.

Student beneficiaries performed musical numbers to thank the donors.

After signing the Memorandum of Agreement, the partners gave DEP a golden key that symbolized the coming together of the three arenas of society—private, public and community.

Abellada thanked GBF for partnering with them. She said her fellow strongly believed that good corps came only from good minds. Investments in the project were based on a love of learning and the hope that the future would be brighter for children, Gokongwei said.

Agapay Foundation chose the beneficiary schools with the Department of Education and local governments.

GBF funded the construction of the schoolhouses, purchase of instruction materials and school supplies, and teacher training.

Additionally, Agapay conducted workshops on Early Childhood Education to ensure that the program's benefits were far reaching and effective.

GBF was launched in 1992 to help improve the socioeconomic conditions of Filipinos through education. Among its projects are the Technical Training Center for skilled graduates in various engineering fields, donations to the Ateneo de Manila University, Aklat Gokongwei Arboal at Bisaya-nanan and De la Salle University School of Engineering, and scholarships to China.

EUREKA! Queenie N. Lee-Chua

Jobs and Gates, UBD, homilies

MANUEL Castro says: I learned (sure) about Christ, John) by reading your columns (sic). If) then following newspaper reports. For example, that he shared his head upon returning from India where he turned Buddhist, that he had a secret life he worked for (that) I used to play (a, too, comparing with children half/our age), etc.

My reply: I always try to write something different, hopefully deeper, than what is covered by other media. I also played art with my grade school and, definitely, the computer was the perfect training ground for Jobs.

Jose Fernandez says on an article written by scholar Maxwell Wessel, posted in the National Review Online: I'm not a fan of Gates that, so much as Jobs influenced the world, we should rename Bill library soon.

Although both were great designers in the computer sense, Wessel felt that Gates' vision was the greater one Jobs.

"Gates stepped away from Microsoft in 2006," said Wessel, "and has devoted his genius to solving the world's biggest problems (even if it) doesn't entail selling more software. He committed his talents to eliminating diseases, increasing development standards, and generally fighting inequality.

"Since 1994, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced an endowment of over $31 billion to Funds to fight the world's most difficult issues, and given away over $25 billion."

"In 17 years, the foundation has raised and given away more than one-tenth of Apple's entire history market capitalization. While the developed world takes things like clean water, basic sanitation, and the availability of food for granted, there are billions of human beings that don't have such fundamental resources."

Wessel added, "Jobs made the world more beautiful and fun. Gates made it better. With resources level knocker in. Gates is making the world saved, and the billions of us with us value will be forever impacted. As much as I love Apple Inc., I would happily give up my iPhone 5 and iPad 3 to see the plate of starving children. Steve Jobs turned his company into a decade-long leader in the truly new space of mobile computing. Bill Gates decided to eliminate malaria. Who do you think we should be putting on a pedestal for our children to emulate?"

THE PALOLOMAT homilies

Much said, with UBD, teachers will not be able to Teach the comprehensive needed for third (sem.)

Once it came that SAT will not solve the lapses in DepEd's UBD teaching guide? All the time we were thinking that the SAT would cover so-called "shelved" topics.

My reply: According to my creative friend Pelagio (ad Jay Mc Tighe, UBD is a design, not a curriculum. Technically, whatever topics will be in the SAT should be the same as in the original curriculum, whether or not UBD is used in teaching and learning process.

Obviously, there has been a lot of confusion and we continue to receive complaints from teachers. Hopefully, the guidelines issued by Wiggins and McTighe on new implementation (specified in the third part of the series) will be followed.

Misunderstanding UBD

Mary Climaco says: I read your Understanding by Design (UBD) articles (Oct. 24, Oct. 30, Nov 7) and came across that quote from education supervisor Jed Yuzon-pugat: "Majority of the divisions in the National Capital Region are no longer using UBD because students will take the National Achievement Test (NAT) as to receive complaints from teachers. Hopefully, the guidelines issued by Wiggins and McTighe on new implementation (specified in the third part of the series) will be followed.

Good homilies

Bob Gabuna says: I read your article on Fr. Antonio Go's book of homilies "50 Something" (Sept. 26). Why not write yourself? Study the written Word of God, preside, meditate, and write about the insights the Holy Spirit gives you.

My reply: The Bible is one of my favorite books, but while I read and ponder on it regularly I don't think we (many) be in a position to homily. I will do that once be retiring and possible in retirement homilies by local pastors.

Check out "Foundation," a collection of homilies by my friends William and Tina Dalekim, active members of the Church among the Palms in Los Baños, Laguna, an affiliate of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Both Palolomats are retired chemistry professors at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. Willy was formerly with the secretary while Tina was a member of the Commission on Higher Education.

He is now deputy director general of the International Rice Research Institute and she is the president of Centro Escolar University.

In their homilies, the Palolomats integrate science and religion. They discuss the environment and issues in physics while meditating on Psalm 24:1 and Psalm 23:3-4, respectively. They mention such theories as the Big Bang and Darwin's evolution while referring to Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the concept of resonance in physics while meditating on the Lord's Prayer, and light energy while discussing Christ's admonition for us to be the light of the world.

My love to a close friend's son Matthew 5:14-16, whose story of his conversion courage to discuss Islam in class.

"Palolomatics" and "50 Something" are great holiday gifts for copies of "Foundation," e-mail Tina at mail.palolomat@gmail.com. "50 Something" is available in National Bookstore and Fortune Island (7208481).

Home Work

Queenie Gamay says: We are very interested in your "Home Work: Everything Parents Ask about School." How can we get a copy?

My reply: "Home Work" (Anvil Publishing, 2004) is available in National Bookstore and Powerbooks. Or call Anvil at 4774752 or 9709993 to order. Thank you for your interest.

Email the author at bino.book@yahoo.com.

Top liver experts in symposium

FILIPINO medical students and practitioners will be able to interact with leading Filipino and foreign experts in digestive and liver diseases during the 3rd Liver and GI Gastroenterology International Symposium to be held Dec. 8-9 at St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City, Taguig.

Organized by the St. Luke's Medical Center, the symposium's theme is "Innovative Trends in Hepatology and Gastroenterology."

Some chairs are Doctors Juliet Sollano-Gervasio and Joseph Bondoc, together with Dr. Cherrie de Ocampo.

Foreign guest experts who will address the symposium are Dr. Ike Southon of the Stanford University Hospital; Doctors Fuhrik Baruch, Keith Lindor, Ik Sun Kim and Alan Shaffy of Mayo Clinic; Vishnu Kaup of Montefiore Medical Center; Glenn Cruise, Dr. Wilbur Maddrey of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; Dr. Robert Goh of the University of California San Diego Medical Center; and Dr. Ira Horn of Portsmouth Hospital of Rhode Island.

Interactive sessions on "Clinical Pearls in Common Digestive Diseases" and "Liver Transplantation: The St. Luke's Experience" will be held.

Call 7230101/7230102 or 4220-4223 or e-mail med@stluke.com.ph. Visit www.stluke.com.ph/livs.

Rekindling Children's Love for Learning

"I was able to enjoy books from an early age because of Kumon" – Rihima Prue Sioco, Kumon Math and Reading Program Completer

Prue didn't just develop advanced reading comprehension at the age of seven, and learned addition, fractions, and calculus at the age of 10. She also learned the value of perseverance, hard work, and discipline.

Nurturing children's natural curiosity to learn

Children have a natural curiosity to understand and participate in the world around them. He flips through pages of a favorite picture book reading materials which matters his attention. He enjoys interacting with new things by encounters and even asks almost impossible-to-answer questions. He challenges himself to learn, touch, listen, or even taste things new to him – a behavior works for him to discover and make sense of his surroundings. He dreams big and hopes to become a doctor, an engineer, or even learn at his own time!

At some point, possibly because of experiences and distractions, children may lose this desire and to the process may lose their confidence in what they can do. But it is never too late for anyone, a child or even an adult, to rekindle their yearning to improve themselves by learning new things – even on their own.

Given the right intervention and encouragement, children could get back on their feet and begin to pursue a lifelong love for learning.

Believing that each child is an achiever, Kumon partners with parents, guardians, and teachers in helping their children not only academic skills, but a lifelong desire to learn by developing their self-learning ability – the ability to set goals and strive on-his-own and challenging tasks independently. This ability makes way for confidence and sense of achievement as children realize that they can achieve anything, even on their own. Thus, equipped with excellent academic skills and a positive attitude towards learning, children are able to challenge themselves with higher goals and expectations.

Like Prue, more than 41,000 children nationwide are now enjoying the benefits of Kumon. And to celebrate their success and recognize their hard work, Kumon Philippines, Inc. has awarded more than 1,000 students in the Advanced Students' Forum (ASF). Through the ASF, Kumon Philippines recognized the amazing feat of students who have not only excelled in their grade level but also have already completed the math and/or reading programs. They have proven to themselves that they can accomplish what they once dreamed of.

To learn how you can better support your child's learning, visit your nearest Kumon center or call the Manila Office at (02) 989-0226 or 5-888-LAMLEARN (toll-free outside Metro Manila). For students from Visayas and Mindanao, please call the Kumon Cebu branch office at (032) 236-1307. You may also visit http://ph.kumonguhdeal.com for more information.

An antisuicide assignment

From page 6

Think good news to convince their parental suicidal others that, even at its most stressful, life was worth seeing all the way through.

The following are excerpts, slightly edited, from the students' journals:

- "The sun's still rising, the grass is growing, flowers blooming, birds chirping, animals living, people living. How can you not be happy?"
- "It is said in the Ten Commandments 'Thou shall not kill... yourself!'"
- "Don't kill yourself! You'll miss people think of you when you're gone."
- "From me to me: We love each other so much, right?"
- "If I have a good life then I must do something productive with myself.
- "You have tons of things to accomplish. You have to finish Russell and Norvig and sleep. Sweet dreams."
- "You could be happy even when you are sad."
- "Suicide isn't a solution. That's all.
- "So please don't do now. You have a life to live for.
- "You just have to take a leap of faith and think that you'll land on both feet.

On some occasions I even think of just ending it all. But a lot of memories are holding me back from doing so.

- Don't kill me. I'm too awesome to die.
- If you kill yourself, your loved ones' lives will be destroyed and you will make them sad.
- If you go, how empty the universe will be. How dark the sky will be, without you shining brightly. If you go, how cold the nights will be. Without you the heart's warmth around me.
- Suicide is not the solution, it is not the key to solve the world's problems.
- If killing yourself will make you look like a coward.
- Take a look at the world you'll leave, and then decide again...
- Who kill yourself if you haven't really tried?

Very reassuring, the things young people can write to motivate themselves. Leave it in their to touch jaded souls how to embrace life.

Theodore Zeh, 32, is an English teacher at MCIS Cebu, a progressive learning center in Beverly Hills, Subdivision, Antipolo.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

Wheelchairs boost quality of life of patients and caregivers

FIVE-YEAR old Lorraine Agatha Ubina came into her new wheelchair aided by her mother Sheila Marie David. This was a moment to cherish and they smile at each other.

Not only will the wheelchair provide independence, comfort and mobility for Lorraine, who is afflicted with cerebral palsy-spastic quadriplegia, "but will also allow her mother—her primary caregiver and constant provider—some measure of convenience and confidence knowing that she can now attend to Lorraine's needs without being unaware.

Sheila, a mother of two, describes Lorraine's situation without reproach: She said: "She is unable to stand or bear weight on (her) lower extremities and she is unable to sit unsupported." Sheila adds: "(Lorraine) also rolls all over around her. She also has stiff limbs, which results in problems of walking."

Lorraine is one of 50 identified beneficiaries of free wheelchairs which were formally distributed to recipients Oct. 29 at the lobby of the University of the Cordilleras (UC). Evangelina D. Soberano, a nurse, was heavily called "Mother" by family and friends. Her name had since defined UC's community projects in the areas of health, environment, livelihood, education and maintenance (Project HELEN). The syllabus that houses the UC CoN, Ellis building, was named in her memory.

Implemented as part of UC's 60th year initiative of sharing institutional resources, competencies and knowledge, UC CENS technical staff Caren Dalmen facilitated the assessment of recommended beneficiaries of the donated wheelchairs by sifting through individual profiles and medical history of potential recipients to find the wheelchairs would benefit those who most need them.

Most of the wheelchairs were distributed to beneficiaries from Baguio, Benguet. The rest of medical missions conducted by the UC CoN, which also had recipients from Ifugao, Benguet, another beneficiary of UC's community initiatives. UC CoN dean Marian Grace A. Guecos said that aside from helping in identifying potential beneficiaries, UC nursing students undertake community health nursing and conduct post-donation activities to determine the rate of patients especially those who are in need of regular medical assessments.

Including Baguio where Lorraine resides, the rest of the donations went to recipients from La Trinidad, Benguet and Bontoc, Mt. Province. The wheelchairs, a modified wavemaker model, is custom-designed with pivot axes for re-inflating the wheels, and has built-in seats for minor repairs.

CPU chief of programs Rebecca J. Pardico said the wheelchair initiative is a part of a global activity that spans Africa, India and Asia including the Philippines. Pardico said their principal mode was that the wheelchairs were designed at the lowest level simple enough to be moved in rough terrain.

She added the components of the wheelchairs are locally available for maintenance and its wheels are made out of materials used by mountain bikers. The assembled chair with body harness is fitted with seats that can be removed if the patient is to be hauled it using the neck.

Pardico lauded UC for having a strong community service component. "Graduates of UC are lucky for the values that they learn along with their academics, which will greatly help them in their professional life," she said.

SHIELA Marie David (extreme left) watches her daughter Lorraine Agatha Ubiña as she is pictured with her new wheelchair. At least 50 wheelchairs donated by UC through a grant from Children's Hope Foundation Philippines Inc. (CHFI) were distributed to North Luzon recipients last Oct. 29.

Southville promotes interest clubs

SOUTHVILLE International School and Colleges (SISC) recently launched Sunday Interest Clubs to start the weekend with more fun and learning. Dubbed as "Adventure Sports (VICTORIA) for its grade school and high school. The program aims to develop the intellectual, athletic or creative calling of Southville students in a fun yet informative setting.

Among the interest clubs available to grade school students are Arts and Crafts, Glee Club/SISC Chorale, TES (Young Entrepreneurs School), Advanced Dance, Dance Ensembles, Film Appreciation, Book Lovers, Junior Movers, Eat Sports, Computer, Math, Basketball, Soccer, Badminton, and Karate/Self Defense.

For high school, the clubs include the Model United Nations, FEU Creative Dramatics, Film Movie Enthusiasts, Arts and Crafts, ABC Chorale, Dance Movers, Guys, Badminton, Basketball, Volleyball and Table Tennis.

All SISC students are encouraged to be involved in one of the numerous clubs and activities to enhance their talents, learn a new skill, form friendships, and gain experience.

FEU students join forces in saving Manila Bay

OVER 1,000 SSTP-1 students from Far Eastern University participated in the recent Project Green Sea clean-up drive at the Manila Bay. The environmentally-related activity provided a unique experience for the Tamaraws, as they gave their best effort to beautify the garbage-riddled coastal area.

For protection, the Tams were equipped with a pair of gloves and mosquito-repelling lotion. Manila Police, DPS Manila district secretariat and MMDA personnel, who came with dump trucks, also participated in the activity which lasted half-today.

"Our FEU students, over 1,000-strong, came to help tidy up Manila Bay as part of their SSTP community service program. While the Green Bikers dramatists were feeding on their drama, some of our students waived their love Manila Bay plan cards to raise public awareness on the issue. Over six truckloads of trash were collected. It was a spectacular event that showcased our students' support to help save Manila Bay," said OEES director John Oliva.

The event was also coordinated by Prof. Nanelo Vidana, Prof. Elizabeth Balthazar and Prof. Erwin Alburo.

SAVAGE NATURE:

A retrospective in harmony

TRAVEL TO the loveliest landscapes in Tuscany help, among other places in Europe, China and North America, brought the eyes of painter Lolita Vidallo to maelstrom. Infinite the same harmony that inspired Lolita to paint this select collection of oils and pencil drawings reflecting her ill years outside the Philippines commencing with nature and counting on.

After finishing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Santo Tomas where she was mentored by her beloved and distinguished painting professors Leonardo Aldaba and Rodolfo Lorenzo, among others, she obtained a Diploma in Painting at the Accademia di Belle Arts in Florence, Italy, under the patronage of the well-renowned Italian painter Silvio Loffredo, as an Italian government scholar.

Subsequent foreign ties traveled to Sweden to study with the internationally prominent Swedish painter, Staffan Hallstrom. Traveling the world since she left the Philippines in the 1970s, Lolita has emerged as a global citizen and artist. Through the paintings in this exhibition, Lolita returns to her beloved Philippines to share with her fellow Filipinos (and fellow Thomasians), the primary lessons of her global adventure, "the universality of nature's beauty."

The artist's paintings grace the collections of the rich and famous, including, among others, film director Spike Lee, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Heidi Broussard-Pavia, founder Klaus Schmitz, Nobel Prize winner Manfred Eigen, and a few Filipino collectors.

The exhibit will run at the UST Museum until Dec. 31. For further inquiries, call 781-1011 or 786-4611 local 8209/8337 or e-mail museum@mail.ust.edu.ph.

Claret all set for TeenPreneur Expo

By Kristian B. dela Cruz, Claret School of Quezon City

THE ENTREPRENEURS' Guild of Claret School of Quezon City will aim to take honors in "Hot Sales" and "Most Improved Product" in the Entrepreneurship School of Asia Teen-Preneur Megamall Expo on Nov. 26 and 27.

The Claret Entrepreneurs' Guild, with their coach, Jennifer T. Catan-Ital Jr., mentor Rodell Lacanita of Quadrennobles Inc., and alumnus of the Entrepreneur School of Asia, are all geared up to showcase once again the members' entrepreneurial and marketing smarts as the result of their three-month long training and preparation for this event.

CEG members-on-leave Jenny Llavore, Kristine dela Cruz, Jose Edgardo Rivera, Jashiel Tobias, EC Bequilon, John Christopher Sicat, Juliana Cruz, David Cruz, Leo Casarbang, Robert Pastrana, Joe Anthony Yanes, Rafael Trellera, Gabriel Jan Luis Reyes, Richard Eric Gutierrez, Jan Miguel Manuel, JB Capuno, EC Ike Cruz, and Kevin Ramadrin

During the activity, the Claret team will sell products made solely by Edmundo Arroyo and Felly Ayco of the Banana Rep. sari Cooperative.

As part of the event's objectives, improving the original product of the beneficiary is one of the team's primary concerns. The members held several discussions regarding their action plan to improve the beneficiary's product, from the type of materials to be used to the name of the logo to be sold.

Part of the strategies that the Claret team employed was to conduct market impression. They observed and researched the markets and type of customers that come in and out of bag selling stores, the ease length these customers spent inside the stores, the manner of how the items are arranged in every store, the approaches that sales representatives utilize and the selling price of bag products from different brands.

They also personally experienced the process of production, i.e., which their beneficiary undergoes before being able to generate outputs. The student's theories tested the workplace of their beneficiary, which is situated in the city of Mandaluyong, and also accompanied in the canvassing, selecting, and purchasing of materials for the production of the bags.

As part of the preparations, the team also trained in speech and confidence-building in the process identifying each member's strengths, which they maximized in the booking process.

In the awarded items done seven, the Claret Entrepreneurs' Guild has been spending longer hours finalizing all aspects and requirements needed for the event. The team has now become more days-trained to help the Ayco couple wisely and consequently help change their lives for the better.

All profit acquired from this event will go to the student team's beneficiaries.

HONOR ROLL

Miriam bags best speaker award in ASEAN debate tour

FIRST CEU BBS, Miriam College's fourth year Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) student, bagged the Best Speaker award during the ASEAN Debate Tournament held last month in Bandung, Indonesia. Galang garnered the highest individual speaker score among 24 debating participants. She is part of the Philippine team which competed in Indonesia. The two other members were BS Accountancy student Ina Feria, also from Miriam College, and Ray Tabada from CEU Quezon Cities. The Philippine team ranked third overall, trumping rival except Thailand and the hosting team. The debate tournament topic covered the Rio+20 theme of sustainable development, climate change and green economy. "Being an EPM major has better understood the concepts of the topic. I thought it was crucial to know the issues by heart and how we could manipulate these concepts to our advantage," says Galang who was accepted as the team's resource speaker. The Philippine team was also the country's representation to the Texas in Seattle tour in which reasons to "to meet with rock and effective" international Youth Conference hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme. The conference is the avenue by which the Bandung Declaration was produced. Participated in by 129 countries, the Bandung Declaration will be read to world leaders next year during the Rio+20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "The Bandung Declaration is the consolidation of the world's response to the three themes of the Rio+20," elaborates Galang. "It demands for corporations and environments to deliver on what they've so invited such as corrupting to a green economy and investing on green businesses."

CLAS dean is judge at Quill Awards

ASSISTANT PROF. Rowena Cayabyab-Reyes, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, joined a distinguished panel of judges last Oct. 28 to evaluate and score the entries in the Communication Management Division of the 2011 Philippine Quill Awards. The Philippine Quill is one of the country's most prestigious awards for business communication. It is given annually by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines, whose members are in-charge of communicating internally and externally for their programs, skills and creative work. The Communication Management Division entries, which dean Reyes judged, covered projects, programs and campaigns that were guided by a corporate culture strategy. Entries are evaluated by different types of organizations, from governments and retail companies to services such as utilities and travel. Criteria used to recommended how these project applied a full range of planning and management skills, including research, analysis, strategy, tactical implementation and evaluation. According to IABC chair Gigi O. Lopez and IABC president Clarence Ma Ace, IABC is honored to have dean Reyes deliver one the deserving entries from different industries and organizations in the country. "Your opinions, experience and judgment upheld the standards of the awards that is celebrating its 10th anniversary," they said. Aside from the Philippine Quill Awards, dean Reyes had been asked to join the board of judges of the CEO Excellence Awards, Asia Voices Awards, and SelfSpeak.

UE midyear commencement rites for dentistry on Nov. 24

THE UNIVERSITY of the East (UE) College of Dentistry will hold its 2011 Midyear Commencement Rites on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m., at the JS Conference Hall, UE Manila. College of Dentistry dean Rhodora H. Luciano will present the 54 candidates for graduation, while Health Secretary Enrique Ona will serve as the guest of honor and speaker. Members of the Board of Dental Medicine Pia Irene Ilio, and dean Rhodora H. Luciano of the UE College of Dentistry, at 735-9471 loc. 227, 35; Dept. of Registration and Records Management, 735-9471 loc. 208 or 209, or visit www.ue.edu.ph.

PALS national convention slated Nov. 25 to 26

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Law Schools (PALS) will hold the Annual National Convention of Law Deans on Nov. 25 to 26 at the Manila Hotel in Roxas Blvd. Vice President Jaycee C. Bitay Sr. will be the keynote speaker on Nov. 26 at 8:30 a.m. before an audience of deans and associate deans of law schools in the country, legal luminaries and advocates, and invited guests, according to PALS president Amado D. Valdez, dean of the University of the East (UE) College of Law. For more details, call PALS president Amado D. Valdez Jr. at 736-5471 loc. 223 and 224, or secretary general Evelyn P. Mendiola Jr., 8918-9120/982-0301/697-1122 or 927-4874, or e-mail to secretariat@palsnational.com.

SPORTS

Two CCP members join Typhoon Karate to SEAG

TWO MEMBERS of the Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP) will join the Philippine Typhoon Karate Team and one active in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, Mon Leo Guinoon and Racquel Lauren Andrade-Cabrera of the CCP Karate Club, will be vying for gold medals in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia. Bearers is a BSED-Filipino graduate and black belt holder with 1st Dan (Shodan) rank, and has been an active member of CCP Karate Club since 2003. She will compete in the Senior Kata (individual Kumite and Team Kumite categories. Guinoon, a BS-IM senior student majoring in Computer Management, is a black belt Shodan, and has been training as a member of the CCP Karate Club since 2003. She will be in the NAIA Individual and Team Kumite competitions. The CCP Karate Club is affiliated with the Shotokan Karate International Federation (SKIF), and various Asia Pacific and SKIF Championships in the Philippines and in Indonesia in various parts of the country. Ranks and belts awarded by SKIF-Philippines are recognized and honored by the main SKIF Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan and major traditional karate clubs worldwide. Instructions are exactly the same as those given in Tokyo, Japan and all SKIF clubs worldwide. The CCP Karate Club is headed by Emmanuel Velasco Jr., a 6th Dan black belt holder. Lawyer Catapion P. Reyes, CCP president, is himself a 3rd Dan black belt holder. The CCP Karate Dojo is located at the CCP Main Campus in 52 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City with tel. no. 716-0777.

THE CEU women's basketball team with (from left) assistant coach Andy Mojes, head coach Dondon Pasaol (coach) and assistant coach Nick Mojes.

CEU Lady Scorpions take championship again

THE CEU Women's basketball team reigned supreme after gaining the championship title in the senior division of the basketball tournament during the 43rd season of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA). This is its second championship title for the year, after bagging the championship title in the same division of the women's basketball tournament during the recently concluded 11th season of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (NAASCU). The final match was held at St. Scholastica's College-Manila last Oct. 8. After battling with the lady tigers from this year's hosts, the Pilipinas Technological University, the Lady Scorpions emerged as victors. During the awarding ceremonies, individual awards were given to some Encantadan athletes. Kimmalyn Quiamzon and Rubelyn Mendiola were awarded for being part of the season's Mythical Five, with Mendiola also hailed as the season's Most Valuable Player. The women's volleyball team placed fourth in the senior division, and Precious Uy was awarded as one of the Mythical Six. Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) is the country's first and only existing tri-level league of women in the country. It is a non-profit athletic organization dedicated to the development and promotion of women's sports in the Philippines.

SINGAPORE School Manila football team grabbed championship honors in the 14 and under category of the Pasbol Fanatics Friendship Cup held in Cemco Field, Alabang, last Nov. 5. Congratulations to Ramon Gimenez, Gabriel Magtalas, Prince Guillermo, Alvaro Tarun, Coach Lago Catalan, Miguel Atienza, Alex Adam, Shane Ikaros Pena Valuador, Player L, Dennis Arienza and John Bonn.

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Nationwide search for business orientation participants

THE SEARCH for student participants for the Business Orientation Program (BOP) 2012 on April 14-21, 2012, has been launched.

The search is a project of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. (AmCham). Brought in corporate social responsibility (CSR), the American Chamber Foundation.

Philippine universities and colleges must nominate three to five students on or before Dec. 9.

The 30 undergraduate students to be chosen will have the opportunity to gain new understandings of key global business and economic issues through in-country visits and in-depth discussions with senior executives of local and international companies.

Eligible are Filipino students who will be at their senior year in 2012-2013. They must be enrolled in a business-related course, have above-average academic record and leadership skills and be proficient in English.

Chito Sitoh, chair of the AmCham BOP 2012 Committee, said the 10-year-old program had allowed students to exchange ideas and harvest their analytical and problem-solving skills in a real-life business environment.

The program, he said, exposed participants to various cultural business backbone of an American and "encouraged them to embrace the education they were getting from their school.

Aside from site tours and talks, students, working in teams, will tackle specific business projects to be presented at the end of the AmCham BOP 2012 week. A panel of AmCham BOP Committee members and sponsor-companies will choose the top three business projects and the best presenter. Winners will be awarded during the closing dinner on April 21, 2012.

Students will get free accommodations, transportation and meals throughout the weeklong activity.

The AmCham BOP 2012 is cosponsored by Peregrine Development International Inc., and Chevron Philippines Inc. It is also supported by Mead Johnson Nutrition, Dentsu-Tec Inc., Isla Communications Inc., Convergys Corp. and Singapore Mandala Hotels.

AmCham executive director Jeffrey Woodruff said BOP 2012 would coincide with the chamber's 113th anniversary. During the celebration, AmCham would be reaffirming its commitment to contribute to and support the economic development of the Philippines and welfare of the Filipino people.

Visit http://bopamcham.blogspot.com/.

US AMBASSADOR to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr. with student participants in the AmCham Business Orientation Program 2011. Nominations for the 10th AmCham Business Orientation Program in 2012 are now open. Deadline for nominations is on Dec. 9.

Sounds of Christmas here again

SCHOOL-BASED chorales will face off with parish choirs and community groups in the 2011 SBC Balanced Choral Competition on Dec. 3-9 at four city malls in Pasay City.

Conducted in the open category are 36 children's choirs and 28 chorales from Isabela, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Benguet, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Albay, Camarines Sur, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, General Santos City, South Cotabato and Metro Manila.

Winners will receive over P500,000 in prizes in the children's division and P750,000 in the open category. Each choir will also have a day to enjoy the several attractions at the country's top amusement park.

Grandmasters in the children's category scheduled for 5 p.m. on Dec. 3-6 are St. Paul College of Pasay, Pasay Catholic College, St. Paul College Pasig, Muntinlupa Science High School, San Nicolas Elementary School-Iloilo, Commonwealth Elementary School and St. Therese's College Grade School Choir.

Daily elimination rounds in the open category will begin at 7 p.m. Wrap for the top prizes are St. Mary's University of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippine Normal University-Alicia's Kalilimayan Chorale, Mandaluyan Chorale of John B. Lacson Maritime Foundation, University of Iloilo, Ed Cann Ensemble, Ateneo University of Legazpi City, Polytechnic University of the Philippines' Bayog Himig Isenioso, University of San Agustin Troubadours and the Eastern University Chorale.

Also competing are Holy Angels University, TIP Choral Society, Tabang mo Kini ng Lamac Columba, University of the Immaculate Conception-Davao, Troubadours of the Pilipino Chorale, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas Chorale, Isabela State University-Ilagan Maritime Society, Philippine Women's University Kantoyi Chorus, Cebu Normal University Chorale and defending champion St. Louis University Glee Club of Baguio City.

Winners in the daily semifinals will go on to the grand finals to be held on 4 p.m. on Dec. 9 at the Alay Theater.

E-mail sounds@gmail.com or log on to www.soundsofchristmas.ning.com/profiles/join.

THE SBC Cavite Ensemble of Angelus Chorus in Legaspi City at the regional finals

REGIONAL finals at Ateneo University of the Pacific

You can't improve what you can't measure

From page 1

on education, but where it is spent. A nation's wealth only accounts for 10 percent of its school system's performance.

The top-ranking countries do not spend the most on education, but they spend a good portion on recruiting and maintaining the best teachers. They board good salaries and high prestige for the teaching profession. The government of China and Singapore also attended subsidies on teachers' pay.

The top-ranking school systems also do serious about teacher development.

In fact, in Singapore, only the top one-third of the graduating class are allowed to become teachers. Aspiring teachers undergo an intensive three-year training. After the pre-service teachers.

In China, teachers have to participate in both theoretical and professional development each year. Report—360 hours!

After receiving initial people into the teaching profession, the top countries exert great incentive to keep them in schools by making sure they are not only financially attractive, but also intellectually attractive.

In Singapore, teachers have with and from peers. It has a strong system of coaches, mentors and develop teachers.

Another factor in education quality is ensuring all classrooms that can make the most significant difference. In Shanghai, cooperative researchers are set up for the best schools to help out the poorest ones, and to capitalize on the strengths of the best teachers.

Many of the top-ranking countries invest in, through higher compensation, the most talented teachers to the most challenging classrooms.

"Accountability without consequence makes no sense," Schleicher said. So, what happens to the poor performing teachers?

In Japan, underperforming teachers are pulled out from classroom for a year of re-training. In China, teachers need to go through teaches every five years. Those who fail in these performances have to undergo full-time training, like the pre-service teachers.

Practical advice

At first impression, Schleicher's statistics looked mind-boggling, and the implications, overwhelming. But Schleicher, who can talk about size of the Tic counties at a click of his Powerpoint, was able to translate every bit into tidbits of pragmatic suggestions for all stakeholders. He offered the following reform trajectories:

- We need to turn the failed from "only a few can achieve excellence" to the conviction that "all students need to learn at high level."
- Instead of teaching for rote learning, schools must teach students "more cognition," or learning to learn, and to understand complex ways of thinking and learning. We are not only teaching a subject, but teaching a student.
- Teachers must achieve a high level of professionalism as knowledge workers and researchers by "looking outward" to peers and stakeholders for a common learning that will improve teaching.

Implications for Filipinos

As an educator, I found Schleicher's presentation to be excellent—informative, comprehensive, stimulating and frankly, sobering. Puzzlingly, it should have been presented to government and Department of Education officials. Incidentally, at least half of the audience was composed of educators from foreign countries.

There is indeed a lack of enthusiasm among Filipino children for math and statistics. What is the solution to that challenge other than inadequacy in math rather too lightly giving the usual old cliché "math does not like me"?

Schleicher suggested that students might have more time on the internet to do that "if I'm not good on things that can be measured, then I must be good in things that cannot be measured." Does that mean that "measurable" should mean unimportant?

Schleicher also said the problem of Asian schools being focused on teaching for the tests can actually get in the way of development of creativity and innovation. Hence, it was important to understand that teaching is one of the areas we are not the answers.

The Philippines' performance in any kind of international or educational testing has not been good at all. Conventionally, this result is often blamed on poverty. But many poorer countries are looking at ways to improve their education, like exemplary participants in Pisa.

Often, there is hesitancy on the part of our education authorities to accept the results of international tests conducted both at their terms. But by denying the importance of these assessments, we are just delaying the hard work of a systematic investigation to find out the causes and to solve the inevitability.

If we are not honest in understanding our strengths and weaknesses, we are denying our next generation of students a quality education that they deserve.

As Schleicher put it: "Students who are not prepared have their future life's chances. Filipinos are not competing with fellow Filipinos; they are competing with the world. Learn from other countries. Use assessment and you will find out what you want to achieve is possible."

Grace Nacpil-Lee, Ph.D., is assistant professor of educational psychology at the University of the Philippines. E-mail her at gnpl@up.edu.ph

Learning section press release guidelines

Accompanying photographs, if any, should each be sent separately as jpg files.

All photographs must have corresponding captions that should also be sent as a separate file. A caption should clearly indicate which photographers being described.

You may also send accompanying press release and photos. Forgot

Do not send just the photos; press release should be ready to edit and print.

Senders should include the date, their contact numbers and e-mail addresses, in case additional questions or need clarification.

International Education Fair moves to Davao

THE ANNUAL Study International Education Fair 2011 will open Nov. 22 at the Marco Polo in Davao City.

Marco Manila will be the final stop where the fair will open Nov. 14-15, 4-6 p.m., at the Sun World Hotel in Makati City.

The event will give Filipinos wishing to study abroad a chance to talk to representatives of foreign schools.

Among those participating in the fair are the Sir Ed King-Jones University of Hertfordshire (UH) and CATS Institute.

UH, an independent and university, provides degree courses in its practical skills and work experience.

Lyn Ka-Hall, deputy dean of UH's Health and Human Sciences, will join a presentation and provide one-to-one session on the school during the fair.

For CATS College in Cambridge, Jane Elliott, CEO, market development manager, will be at the fair to discuss the school's programs, including the Foundation Studies Program.

Also expected to be at the fair are representatives of schools in Canada, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and France.

Admission to the fair is free. Online registration is available at www.studyinternational.com.ph. Contact Study International at 87 29000 or e-mail info@studyinternational.com.ph.

You may also like them on Facebook. study.international.ph, or follow them on Twitter, study_international.

Comic, animation festival opens Nov. 25

HUNDREDS of young people are expected to attend the Third Philippine International Comics, Comics and Animation (PICCA) Festival on Nov. 25 at the SM Fairview Activity Areas in Quezon City.

This event opens with two major activities. One will feature movies by homebuilding Kathniella Igot Ramos (IGOT), while the other will showcase new works of Mindanao, a home magazine.

There will also be cartoon exhibits, mini-competitions, talks on comics, workshops, animation showings and artist turnout.

On Nov. 26, there will be lectures at the Ateneo de Manila University auditorium from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Early-carrying PICCA member students from places outside Metro Manila are expected to attend the festival.

Member schools include Mindanao University of the Philippines (UP), College of Davao Inc., Mindanao Art and Design Institute of Technology and Innovation, College of St. Benilde, Miriam College, Philippine Women's University and Ateneo.

Sponsors of PICCA are Philippine Comics, Discount and Anime Corporation, Holy Child Innovation and Creative Media Production and Guild of Asia and the Pacific.

Inquire event details, "Request Book 2 Book" that has typed 500 P cartoons and comics of Jose Pilapil and Nonoy Aquino of the BOB Museum. the Lyn Ballon Award recognizes comic organizations who selected Carrera for the Inspirational Age. Ballon's name headed the comic organization "Kinderkomix." Winners of the announcement Nov. 25.

After PICCA, the Goethe Institut, the German cultural center, will open "Comics Abanga and Co." a comics exhibit, on Nov. 28 at the SM College of Arts and Letters.

Tondo kids learn about nature conservation

Text and photos by
Stephen Marvin R. Padilla
Correspondent

TONDO kids are being recruited to join the army of warriors that will help protect Mother Nature.

Volunteer environmentalists gathered recently school kids in Barangay 116 for a fun-filled session as part of its Good Nature program.

Spearheaded by conservation group World Wildlife Fund-Philippines (WWF), in partnership with the Starbucks Coffee chain, the session taught children in an exciting way how to protect Mother Nature.

The campaign aims to engage people in the fight against various environmental issues and get their commitment to help address climate change by educating children, motivating large amounts of government guns into the atmosphere. In the past, climate change happened gradually, taking thousands of years before its effects were felt.

A FUTURE conservation quizzes a resource person; (right photo) Fabial winner with Resurrection, Bardasa Fernandez, Marc Nonan and Fabial founder Peter Aucero

RESURRECCION talks about nature conservation.

But first, kids lobed Resurrection, head of WWF-Philippines' environmental education program, said: "Through the project, we have the opportunity to instill knowledge, provide tangible solutions and actively participate in the overall process of saving and preserving the environment."

Stories on environment

In trying to raise awareness among Tondo children of waste management and the effects of climate change, WWF and Starbucks conducted games and storytelling, presented action songs, and asked the children to do art projects for their peers and other community members of Barangay 116.

Resurrection, who developed the session, facilitated the event. She made it interactive to be more engaging to young participants and to enhance their learning experience.

A used paper was converted as warm-up activity. Children tried to form words using the letters in trash, waste and basura.

After the game, Resurrection delivered a short lecture on how to deal properly with solid wastes. She taught the children about the three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle.

The WWF said an average Filipino generated 0.3 and 0.5 kilogram of solid wastes daily in rural and urban areas, respectively. In Metro Manila alone, an estimated 6,700 metric tons of garbage are produced every day.

WWF has four other conservation thrusts aside from waste management. These are climate change and sustainability, energy efficiency and conservation, biodiversity conservation and water conservation.

"Simple conservation measures or segregation and reducing, reusing, recycling decrease the amount of wastes in landfills and the release of greenhouse gas methane in the atmosphere. However, waste management is not effectively practiced in the Philippines," said Resurrection.

With the help of stuffed toys, Resurrection showed the kids how human activities adversely affected other creatures. She told the story of sea turtles that feed on jellyfish. The turtles sometimes mistook plastic randomly thrown away by humans for jellyfish, she said.

The plastic could make the turtles sick and even kill them, she added.

'Fabia!'

Highlight of the event was the "Fabia!" or Fabial sa Ingles. Television personalities Nonton Fernandez and Marc Nelson, WWF ambassadors, engaged the Tondo kids in the eco-friendly game, teaching them how to segregate wastes properly into biodegradable and nonbiodegradable as they played.

Using small rubber balls bearing labels of common solid wastes like paper, plastic bag and bottle, two groups of selected Tondo kids played the football-inspired game. Players of each team kicked the balls into baskets labeled nabubulok (biodegradable) and di nabubulok (nonbiodegradable).

Fernandez and Nelson rooted each team and were also the referees. Fernandez and he and Nelson had been leading their fun time on WWF for almost nine years now in support of its environmental advocacy.

They stayed on for the next activity where kids had to determine if details given by Resurrection pertained to any common solid waste, namely paper, glass or rubber.

Other activities the kids enjoyed were the singing of "Ang mga Kalat sa Silid Pulot Ni Mo" to the tune of "When You're Happy and You Know It" and designing paper cups using the lessons they learned from the session.

At the end of the event, the children received a mary rose paper waste segregation mat and a sticker with the same message that spelled out the acronym TAMA.

Tagalog-lang kellangan talaga ang isang gamit bago ito itapon. (Check if you really need something before throwing it.)

A-ayos ang mga basura, pagkihiwalayin ang nabubulok sa hindi nabubulok. (Segregate the waste into biodegradable and nonbiodegradable.)

Magtapon nunquit sa tapo gamit. (Take proper care of things.)

Ang mga lang maayos pang magamit ang lanang kapit. (Check if any old thing you have is still useful.)

Resurrection also invited private companies to partner with WWF in its corporate social responsibility projects. Those interested may call 9079926 local 22 or e-mail lfernandez@wwf.org.ph.

The priceless ticket of sharing

'May bus po bang papuntang Europe?'

By Imhilah F Macaraya

Editor's Note: The author, a 1st yr. Isolde College of St. Benilde student, is the grand prize winner in the EU Student Writing Contest, a project of the European Union Delegation to the Philippines in partnership with the Inquirer. Her winning entry, edited for brevity, follows.)

LETTER will you have the European Union (EU) is important to the Filipino children who have only seen their names on maps of Manila, who sleep in houses with thin plywood walls and roofs without light bulbs, who watch women queuing to satisfy cravers on noontime television shows, who are only familiar with their makeshift homes, their streets, and the grey horizon that surrounds us the limits of what their minds know and hold.

Where is Europe?

I will focus on my favorite EU event, "Lakbayin Natin ang EU," which was held at Museo Pambata in 2010 and 2011. "Lakbayin" is an exploration of cultures among the EU's different member countries for the benefit of children in Metro Manila, from the privileged to those who are close to owning nothing.

"May bus po bang papuntang Europe (Is there a bus going to Europe)?" The question from a little boy who had not seen much of the world fascinated me.

It is true that less fortunate children are not really aware of what is outside our country. But they know there is something more out there—beyond their small homes, their community, our country.

But they cannot continue it. What has given us these ideas about different places around the world are the stories on local channels, telenovelas and Koreanovelas, and a bit of history in textbooks.

But these were not are not enough for them to understand that Europe does exist and that it is possible for us to experience Europe locally.

Similar after all

"Ate, magkakamukha lang pala tayo ha? (Not long before) style (We look like each other after all)." (Ate) Just have blond hair)," said a little girl after attending the "Lakbayin Natin ang EU" event at Museo Pambata.

She had just finished singing with the French children from Ecole Caniguo. I could see in her eyes how delighted she was to meet new friends from a different country that she thought was a myth.

I watched the little girl and the other children as they sang a popular song. The French had sung it in their language first. When the Filipino children heard the beat, they could not their eyes brighten and their smiles widen. If you could hear their thoughts it would probably say, "We know that song, too, but in a different language."

A whole new world

And so, in the end, the children sang the song together, first the French then the Filipino version.

I cannot describe how happy the kids were. It was like telling a child that Santa was real and the tooth fairy did exist. It was like being in a video game where one entered another world and could not want to explore every part of it.

The EU had opened that portal and the kids were experiencing it all for free. It did not stop with songs and France. They also heard children's stories from austria, learned how to count in German, discovered that the Spanish language was close to ours and saw the different national clothes of the other countries in the European Union.

After listening to children's stories from the United Kingdom, a girl said, "Hindi na kailangang kabahuyan (ang) gastos nagng magkalayo (sana) dalhwaan.

KIDS discover the EU map at Museo Pambata.

AMBASSADOR Guy Ledoux of the delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, winner Imhilah Macaraya, Inquirer publisher Eugene Yambot and Jhon Poland III, Valentine of the UP College of Mass Communication where the awarding was held

CELEBRATING HAPPINESS

Fourth year high school students (who already take a break from school and classes to usher in Christmas at the Araneta Center giant tree lighting ceremony. They are (standing) Dhe Montemiza, Bubbie Ferreria, Julia Herrera, Janica Dionisio, Kathryn Bernardo, Eric Bernal, Ryza Cenon, (seated) Anthony Diaz, Kendall Crespo, Sol Centeno, Empress Silva, Bianca Perez, Patricia Pierce, with Quezon City mayor Herbert Bautista, Coca-Cola Philippines marketing director Analita Sabarreal-Adolfo and president Guillermo Aguirre. Join the Coca-Cola Christmas Box Surprise Promo for a chance to visit Manila Ocean Park, Coca-Cola products, Bench gift certificates, and gadgets like iPads, digital cameras, PS3's, Wii or P1 million in cash. Just follow these simple steps: (1) Drink Coke, Coke Zero, Sprite or Royal Tru-Orange in any 450ml, 500ml, 750ml, 1 liter, 1.25L, 1.5L or 2L packs; (2) Collect two caps and exchange for one raffle coupon at participating sari-sari stores, public markets, Coca-Cola refrigerators and Coca-Cola dealers' refrigerators centers until Dec. 30; (3) Text in the code to the coupon to join the electronic raffle. Winners of the colored ball drop per your nationwide. See promo mechanics at www.coke.com.ph for more details.